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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WORLD RICE PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

The world rice harvest of 1949-50 (August-July) is estimated at 3 percent less than the preceding year, and slightly above the prewar average, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Production is forecast at 7,400 million bushels compared with 7,600 million bushels a year earlier, and with 7,300 million bushels during the prewar average (1935-36/39-40) period.

The decline is centered in Asia, where China's crop has dropped sharply. The world acreage is about 3 million acres or 1.4 percent less than in the preceding year, principally as the result of acreage reductions caused by civil disturbances in the surplus area of Asia. European and African harvests are expected to approximate those of a year earlier, while record crops may be produced in North and South America.

Asia's production is forecast at 6,850 million bushels, or about 93 percent of the world's total. It is 3 percent less than 7,050 million bushels in the preceding year, and 2 percent less than the prewar average of 7,000 million bushels. Output decreased sharply in China and Burma, and a smaller crop is reported in Korea. Production, however, is indicated to be larger in Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan, and in India and Pakistan it may equal or exceed last year.

China's harvest is estimated at 2,180 million bushels, or 8 percent below last year and 11 percent below the prewar average. The acreage approximated that of last year, but summer floods caused a pronounced drop in the per acre yields.

Official estimates are not available for Indian rice acreage and production in 1949-50. Acreage is reported to have increased and weather conditions generally have been reported favorable. Given a record acreage of 61,500,000 acres, slightly larger than last year, and yields equal to the prewar average, a crop of 1,585 million bushels would be produced. If above-average yields are harvested, the 1949-50 crop may exceed this estimate.

In the case of Pakistan official statistics for rice production have not been available since 1947-48. Taking into consideration the available data on the acreage of the 1949-50 autumn and winter crops, and weather conditions thus far, the total area planted may be only

ROUGH RICE: Acreage, yield per acre and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36 to 1944-45, annual 1947-48 to 1949-50 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average					Average		Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Costa Rica	28	27	30	34	46	33.4	31.5	935	916	952	1,108	1,450
El Salvador	26	45	45	48	48	26.9	30.2	700	1,027	1,370	1,540	1,450
Mexico	95	155	179	210	231	42.2	31.8	4,007	5,330	6,752	7,838	7,348
Panama	50 3/	79	128	134	148	32.0	26.5	1,600 3/	2,318	2,987	3,691	3,917
United States	1,004	1,338	1.693	1,781	1,821	49.7	49.0	49,852	60,849	78,259	85,056	89,141
Cuba	45	69	120	123	120	21.4	24.6	965	1,587	2,867	3,000	2,956
Total	1,425	1,920	2,420	2,613	2,682	-	-	62,182	77,669	99,033	109,800	113,435
EUROPE												
Bulgaria	19	28	-	-	-	54.8	-	1,041	1,469	-	-	-
France	1	1	6	12	20	30.0	49.0	30	36	245	590	980
Italy	362	381	327	352	330	103.9	100.3	37,620	37,900	34,300	34,300	33,100
Portugal	47	62	65	70	55	72.3	65.9	3,398	3,795	4,213	4,489	3,625
Spain	110	121	130	137	130	4/ 124.4	97.7	10,600	11,600	12,740	11,500	12,700
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	553	616	579	657	638	-	-	53,166	55,610	54,085	55,114	55,030
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	3/ 384	-	-	-	--	3/ 42.3	-	3/ 16,225	15,500	-	-	-
ASIA												
Iran	3/ 534	580	544	544	544	3/ 37.1	33.3	18,577	21,100	15,607	17,147	18,126
Iraq	3/ 386	479	-	-	-	3/ 27.3	-	11,176	14,904	12,740	18,100	16,500
Syria	2	3	20	18	-	55.5	-	111	183	1,057	735	-
Turkey	78	66	59	59	63	61.2	81.7	4,774	3,905	4,042	4,483	5,144
Burma	12,671	10,650	9,286	9,921	7,666	27.5	26.6	348,534	275,000	274,310	264,708	204,089
China	5/ 48,853	45,000	45,373	45,617	45,631	5/ 50.2	47.8	5/ 2,452,710	2,200,000	2,278,436	2,360,000	2,180,000
Taiwan	1,616	1,539	1,631	1,782	1,819	53.0	45.2	85,704	72,505	71,727	75,000	82,300
Manchuria	782	975	-	-	-	40.6	-	31,783	34,336	22,850	22,500	18,370
French Indo-China	14,306	13,000	12,900	13,500	12,000	22.4	22.5	319,910	285,000	290,000	285,000	270,000

ASIA (Continued)												
India 6/	7/ 54,237	55,672	60,818	60,480	61,500	7/ 25.8	25.8	7/1,399,525	1,369,943	1,463,728	1,535,000	1,585,000
Japan	7,862	7,653	7,830	7,850	7,850	75.8	76.3	595,845	556,057	553,405	587,771	598,861
Java and Madura	9,794	9,330	9,000	9,555	-	32.0	-	313,144	304,465	275,000	297,000	-
Korea	3,838	3,601	8/ 2,753	8/ 2,745	8/ 2,580	51.0	8/ 54.4	195,763	181,601	8/131,983	8/147,717	8/140,405
Malayan Union	746	790	862	923	900	36.3	-	27,099	25,000	26,207	21,970	-
Pakistan	7/ 18,702	20,605	21,036	21,400	21,350	7/ 29.0	27.4	7/542,321	561,708	569,900	585,000	585,000
Philippine Islands	4,852	5,265	5,007	5,347	5,250	21.6	23.6	104,877	110,000	109,782	122,051	124,000
Thailand	7,088	6,750	6,700	7,500	7,500	30.1	33.3	213,079	200,000	230,000	250,000	250,000
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	198,756	196,501	200,888	204,564	201,358	-	-	6,988,702	6,576,712	6,756,941	7,051,146	6,847,644
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	52	91	128	128	148	59.8	49.7	3,112	5,652	5,497	5,879	7,350
Brazil	2,323	3,042	4,095	4,152	-	28.6	-	66,424	95,237	124,800	120,000	-
British Guiana	70	83	107	95	-	50.8	-	3,559	4,055	4,760	4,976	-
Chile	13	68	70	60	-	99.9	-	1,299	5,162	4,381	4,087	-
Paraguay	5	12	10	20	37	39.2	39.7	196	422	416	857	1,470
Peru	107	137	132	94	-	42.8	-	4,578	6,716	10,132	6,423	-
Surinam	37	33	38	45	40	46.0	71.5	1,703	1,867	1,889	2,861	2,860
Uruguay	13	13	31	33	-	66.6	-	866	827	1,824	2,095	-
Total	2,914	3,999	5,254	5,336	5,466	-	-	88,926	132,671	172,200	168,575	179,749
AFRICA												
Egypt	463	600	805	816	-	71.6	-	33,135	36,049	62,533	64,074	62,000
French West Africa	3/ 1,562	1,860	-	-	-	3/ 13.4	-	3/ 20,936	24,700	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,195	1,227	1,430	1,430	1,430	28.3	24.0	33,823	34,851	34,300	34,300	34,300
Sierra Leone	340	-	780	780	-	26.8	-	9,100	-	13,230	13,230	-
Total	4,320	5,483	7,075	7,160	7,031	-	-	109,811	127,446	169,192	172,445	170,410
OCEANIA												
Australia	23	30	26	31	33	92.0	84.8	2,117	2,462	2,498	2,556	2,800
Fiji	10	22	25	-	-	43.1	-	431	1,006	-	-	-
Total	40	72	85	91	94	-	-	2,703	3,918	4,448	4,531	5,625
World total	208,400	209,000	216,600	220,800	217,700	-	-	7,322,000	6,990,000	7,281,000	7,579,000	7,390,000

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 5-year average. 4/ Average 1930-34. 5/ Average 1931-37. 6/ Includes acreage and production in areas regularly reported only. 7/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40. 8/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production averaged about 150,000,000 bushels.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

slightly smaller than in the year before and production may approximate or exceed the unofficial estimate of 585 million bushels for 1948-49.

A near-record harvest in Japan of 599 million bushels was 2 percent larger than last season's good crop, and slightly above the prewar average. As the result of dry weather in Korea at the time of planting, however, acreage and production in that country were less than in the preceding year. A record crop is expected in the Philippines.

The total production of Asia's surplus area, Burma, Siam, and French Indochina, is estimated at 9 percent less than in the preceding year and 18 percent below prewar production. The harvest is estimated at 725 million bushels compared with 800 million in a year earlier and with 880 million bushels before the war.

Burma's acreage declined 23 percent, or 2,250,000 acres, below the 9,921,000 acres harvested the year before, according to a preliminary forecast. The harvest therefore is expected to yield only 204 million bushels compared with 265 million bushels in 1948-49 and approximately 350 million bushels in the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average period. Farmers reduced acreages as the result of the civil unrest in Burma.

The production of Siam is expected to approximate the near-record of the preceding year. Late rains retarded planting of the crop, but late-season rainfall was sufficient to produce relatively high yields per acre. Information from French Indochina, where a rice blockade continues to prevent the shipment of surpluses, would indicate growers probably reduced acreages this year. Weather conditions there during the first part of the growing season were reported favorable.

Europe's production is estimated at 55 million bushels, about the same as in the preceding year, and 4 percent larger than before the war. The acreage was 15 percent above the prewar average, but the per-acre yields are lower than the prewar average, principally because less fertilizer was used compared with prewar application.

The acreage of Italy was reduced 6 percent, but the yields were higher than in the preceding year and a crop approaching that of the year before was produced. Farmers reduced the area planted when large surpluses accumulated from the 1948 crop. The planted acreage of Spain increased 4 percent, but October floods reduced the area for harvest. Although production was less than expected, it exceeded that of the year before. As a result of a decline in the use of fertilizers, the return per acre remained substantially less than in the early 1930's, when Spain's yields were the highest in the world.

The record harvest of North America is estimated at 113 million bushels compared with 110 million bushels in the preceding year and 62 million bushels before the war. This increase is due primarily to a gain in the United States, where the acreage and production increased 2 percent and 5 percent respectively. Mexico increased its planted area 10 percent, but low yields per acre resulted in a smaller crop than the year before.

Production in Central America totaled 8.8 million bushels compared with 9 million in the preceding year and only 4.8 million bushels before the war. Record acreages planted in Panama and Costa Rica resulted in a marked increase in the production of those countries. Smaller crops were harvested in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and British Honduras.

Gains are indicated in the rice acreage of South American countries. Increases are expected in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and Chile. If climatic conditions are average in producing countries through the remainder of the growing and harvesting seasons, a record crop, substantially above that of the preceding year, may be harvested.

This is one of series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, Paul E. Quintus, L. Thelma Willahan, T. O. Engebretson, and C. S. Stephanidos.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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COLOMBIA INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

Colombia's record rice crop of 1949 was about three times the output of 10 years ago, and the upward trend in production is expected to continue in 1950. The 1949 harvest, mainly December, is estimated at 11,790,000 bushels of rough rice compared with 10,887,000 bushels in the preceding year, and 3,142,000 bushels before the war (1935-39). Given normal growing conditions in 1950, the output may exceed 12,000,000 bushels.

COLOMBIA: Rice production, trade, and apparent utilization, 1940-1950

Year	Production: Rough	Production: In terms of milled	Imports	Exports	Apparent utilization
	1,000 bushels	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1940	4,638	112,699	20,822	-	133,521
1941	5,429	131,923	351	-	132,274
1942	5,830	141,668	53	1,675	140,046
1943	5,901	143,398	57	231	143,224
1944	7,940	192,942	71	128	192,885
1945	7,548	183,423	31	320	183,134
1946	7,410	180,072	1,027	14,178	166,921
1947	10,230	248,586	13,452	1/	262,038
1948	10,887	264,552	3,355	-	267,907
1949	11,794	286,598	-	1,631	284,967
1950	12,200	298,000	-	15,000	283,000

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official statistics and estimates of the American Embassy.

The expansion in acreage in the Departments of Tolima, Magdalena, Meta, and Norte de Santander, where the main part of the crop is mechanized, is expected to continue. In some of the areas of Bolivar and Antioquia, where rice has been produced over a period of years, the acreage may decrease. Reports from the Department of Huila, a source of high-quality rice, and where cultivation recently has been mechanized, indicate growers may reduce the acreage.

The aim for Colombian exports in 1950 is around 15,000,000 pounds of milled rice. Of the 1949 exportable surplus, estimated at the beginning of the season at approximately 11,000,000 pounds, exports up to November totaled only 1,631,000 pounds to Venezuela and Jamaica. No imports were reported officially during 1949.

Colombian trade figures for the past 10 years show that the rice trade has been nominal, both as regards imports and exports, notwithstanding a rapidly rising rate of domestic production. In 1946 a total of 14,178,000 pounds was exported, but in 1947 a corresponding importation of 13,452,000 pounds was required to meet minimum domestic requirements. During the first 6 months of 1948, imports of 3,355,000 pounds were necessary also and there were no exports in 1947 and 1948.

Colombian rice proved difficult to market abroad in 1949 because: (1) domestic prices generally were higher than those on the export market; (2) transportation costs to ports were high; (3) the percentages of broken kernels and red rice were large; and (4) the grades were not uniform. While the failure to move these quantities of rice into export channels was discouraging to growers, the trade believes that improved selection of seed, crop rotation and better methods of drying and milling will be established in the principal producing areas during the next 3 to 5 years. This will result in an improvement in the export quality of rice. It is generally conceded also that the domestic demand is not yet completely filled.

Domestic rice prices in 1949 remained firm, with quotations late in the year in the major consuming centers equal to those of 1947 and 1948. Wholesale prices of standard quality milled rice at Bogota during 1949 ranged from $13.32 to $14.81 per 100 pounds. Prices to farmers for rough rice purchased by the National Supply Institute were announced in September 1949 at from $2.61 to $2.83 per bushel, depending on the Department where purchased.

COLOMBIA: Domestic wholesale price of standard quality milled rice, Bogota, per 100 pounds, 1947 to 1949

Month	1947	1948	1949
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
January	10.96	15.51	13.88
February	11.58	15.93	13.32
March	13.24	16.13	13.32
April	13.86	15.93	13.32
May	14.48	14.89	13.32
June	16.96	15.31	13.88
July	16.75	15.31	13.88
August	13.86	14.89	13.88
September	14.89	14.89	14.25
October	14.27	14.48	14.81
November	16.13	14.69	14.81
December	15.93	13.14	-

Consular Report.

The First National Congress of Colombian Rice Growers was held at Ibague, Tolima, from October 9 to 11. The meeting, sponsored by the Colombian National Rice Growers' Federation, was well attended by the country's rice growers and representatives of official and semiofficial organizations. Among the important measures approved by the Congress were the following:

1. The Board of Directors was authorized to continue discussions concerning closer cooperation between rice growers and the National Supply Institute with respect to an export program.

2. The National Government was asked to study and establish standards and grades for growers in various sections of the country, giving consideration to the fact that the lack of such standards and grades has been a major factor in retarding exports.

3. The manager of the Federation was authorized to negotiate with private banking institutions and other credit agencies with a view of increasing the amount of credit available to growers.

4. It was agreed the Government should be asked to maintain rigid price controls over farm machinery and parts to be imported under the United States' $5,000,000 World Bank loan, in order to assist farmers in reducing production costs.

5. It was agreed the Office of Exchange Control should be asked for a United States $200,000 import license in the name of the Federation for agricultural machinery, tools and equipment.

6. The Federation Board of Directors was authorized to consult with officials of the National Census to determine how the Federation could best be of assistance in supporting the 1950 census program.

7. The "American" quintal of 46 kilograms (101.412 pounds) was adopted as the standard measurement of volume for export rice.

Based on a report by Kenneth Wernimont, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bogota, Colombia.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MEXICO HARVESTS RECORD RICE CROP 1/

Mexico's rice production in 1949 is estimated at 408 million pounds rough, a record crop and an increase of 38 million pounds over the preceding year. A marked gain occurred in planted acreage, but the average yield per acre was less than in some years because of less favorable growing conditions.

The acreage expansion was centered in the State of Sonora in the Yaqui Valley, where the harvest rose from approximately 140 to 195 million pounds of rough rice, or an increase of 39 percent. This area is now producing from 45 to 50 percent of Mexico's crop, and a further increase in acreage is possible. It is in this part of Mexico that irrigation and land clearing have resulted in an expansion of the rice industry in recent years.

MEXICO: Rice acreage and production, averages 1935-44, annual 1945-49

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production	
			Rough	In terms of milled
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1935-39	95	1,898	180.3	117
1940-44	155	1,547	239.8	156
1945	147	1,816	267.0	174
1946	157	1,959	307.5	200
1947	179	1,697	303.8	197
1948 1/	210	1,764	370.4	241
1949 1/	267	1,528	407.9	265

1/ Unofficial.

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

Most of Mexico's rice is produced within the calendar year. It is generally planted from April to August and harvesting begins in October. In Sonora, the harvest is completed by the end of December. However, in Morelos and Michoacan, two other States having important rice acreages, harvesting continues into March.

1/ Based on a report from Stanley E. Bakewell, American Embassy, Mexico, D.F.

A record volume also was exported in 1949. Deliveries of 91 million pounds in terms of milled rice went to the following countries (million pounds): Indonesia, 43; French West Indies, 15; France, 12; India, 11; Venezuela, 7; and other countries, 3. The largest shipments were in May (24 million pounds), January (20 million), March (15 million), and September (12 million pounds).

MEXICO: Exports of milled rice by leading ports, 1948 and January-October 1949

Port	1948				January-October 1949			
	Quantity		Value		Quantity		Value	
	Metric tons	Million pounds	1,000 pesos	1,000 dollars	Metric tons	Million pounds	1,000 pesos	1,000 dollars
Guaymas.....	24,490	54.0	29,501	5,564	35,337	77.9	41,504	5,238
Tampico.....	3,036	6.6	3,340	630	1	1/	2	2/
Veracruz....	1,066	2.4	906	171	101	0.2	111	14
Tecate......	-	-	-	-	455	1.0	161	20
Total..	28,599	63.0	33,755	6,366	35,966	79.3	41,880	5,285

1/ 2,204.6 pounds. 2/ $252.00.

Compiled from official sources.

Rice exports before the war (1936-40) averaged around 20 million pounds, ranging from 5 to 44 million pounds annually. Foreign trade rose to a record of 52 million pounds in 1942, but in 1943 shortages of other domestic foodstuffs resulted in a prohibition of rice exports. Exportation was permitted again in 1947, and it has increased steadily since that year.

Mexico is primarily an exporter of rice. There have been, however, small imports for seed purposes, largely from the United States. Imports of cracked rice from the United States for use in the brewing industry increased in 1943 and 1945. Relatively large imports in 1946 and 1947 were primarily from Ecuador.

MEXICO: Rice Imports, annual 1941-48, January-October 1949

Year	Quantity	Year	Quantity	Year	Quantity
	Pounds		Pounds		Pounds
1941	191,800	1944	2,204	1947	4,459,906
1942	37,478	1945	685,631	1948	41,887
1943	1,203,712	1946	3,293,672	1949	4,409

Compiled from official sources.

On the average the Mexican consumers are not heavy users of rice. The approximate per capita utilization in recent years has averaged between 5½ and 7½ pounds annually, only slightly larger than the per capita rice consumption in the United States. Approximately 60 percent of the 1948 crop, or 150 million pounds, was consumed domestically, and 40 percent was exported.

MEXICO: Rice production, exports, and apparent utilization, averages 1936-40, annual 1946-50

Year	Production in terms of milled 1/	Exports	Production minus exports	Population	Apparent per capita utilization
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Millions	Pounds
Average:					
1936-40.	117	19	98	19.1	5.1
1941-45.	156	15	141	21.2	6.7
1946......	174	2/	174	22.8	7.6
1947......	200	22	178	23.4	7.6
1948......	197	63	134	23.9	5.6
1949......	3/ 241	91	150	24.4	6.1
1950 3/...	265	4/ 90	175	24.9	7.0

1/ October-March harvest preceding calendar years of trade and utilization. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 3/ Unofficial. 4/ Estimate of exportable supplies.

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

High rice prices since 1946 have been an inducement for growers to increase plantings. Wholesale prices in terms of Mexican pesos advanced sharply in August 1946, remained at a peak level until October 1947, when they showed a moderate drop, and have remained relatively high since that period. Because of the 1948 decline in the exchange rate of the Mexican peso in terms of United States dollars, however, the relative dollar price is lower than in 1946.

MEXICO: Wholesale prices of milled rice by months, 1946, 1948, and 1949

Month	1946		1948		1949	
	Pesos per kilogram	Cents per pound	Pesos per kilogram	Cents per pound	Pesos per kilogram	Cents per pound
January..	.76	7.1	1.03	9.6	1.03	6.8
February.	.76	7.1	1.03	9.6	1.02	6.6
March....	.76	7.1	1.03	9.6	1.03	6.7
April....	.76	7.1	1.04	9.7	1.03	6.7
May......	.81	7.6	1.07	10.0	1.03	5.8
June.....	.95	8.9	1.09	10.2	1.03	5.6
July.....	.97	9.1	1.08	10.1	1.06	5.6
August...	1.20	11.2	1.03	1/	1.03	5.4
September	1.23	11.5	1.05	1/	1.05	5.5
October..	1.21	11.3	1.05	6.9	1.06	5.6
November.	1.28	11.9	1.02	6.7	2/	2/
December.	1.22	11.4	1.03	6.8	1.05	5.5

1/ Quotations not available July 22-October 12. During this period the exchange value in United States currency dropped from 20.573 to 14.438 cents a Mexican peso. 2/ Not available. Compiled from official sources.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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EGYPT HARVESTS LARGE RICE CROP: TRADE MAINTAINED AT HIGH LEVEL 1/

Egypt's 1949 rice harvest was a third consecutive bumper crop. Although 11 percent less than the 1948 all-time record, and 8 percent less than the second largest crop of 1947, it was 950 million pounds of rough rice larger than the prewar average (1935-39) production of 1,620 million pounds.

The reduction from 1948 was due almost entirely to a drop in acreage, the yields per acre having approached the 1948 record. Yields averaged 3,527 pounds of rough rice compared with 2,704 pounds during the 1940-44 period when commercial fertilizers were in short supply. This above-average yield was due largely to favorable growing weather and an adequate supply of water and commercial fertilizers. Ammonium sulphate was available in sufficient quantity to permit the standard application of approximately 250 pounds per acre.

EGYPT: Rice production and trade, averages 1935-44; annual 1945-49 1/

Year	Average	Yield per acre	Production		Net exports 2/	Production minus exports 2/
			Rough	In terms of milled		
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:						
1935-39	463	3,233	1,496.8	1,048	279	769
1940-44	600	2,704	1,622.2	1,136	163	973
Annual:						
1945	654	2,920	1,910.0	1,337	448	889
1946	656	3,154	2,069.2	1,448	367	1,081
1947	805	3,496	2,814.0	1,970	773	1,197
1948	816	3,534	2,883.4	2,018	3/ 747	1,271
1949	730	3,527	2,575.0	1,802	4/ 660	1,142

1/ Rough rice of production and where occurring in trade is converted to terms of milled at 70 percent. 2/ During calendar year following harvest. 3/ December-November. 4/ Estimate of exportable supplies.

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

1/ Based on a report from E. R. Raymond, American Embassy, Cairo.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture estimates that 70 percent of the rice acreage is seeded by broadcasting, while 30 percent is transplanted. The seeding rate is reported to be from 105 to 125 pounds per acre on the broadcasted area and 85 pounds per acre on the transplanted area.

Landowners of Beni Suef and Minia Provinces (Middle Egypt), where formerly almost no rice was grown, apparently are finding rice production profitable. Until 1949 production was confined largely to the Delta Provinces in northern Egypt. Several landowners in Middle Egypt grew rice for the first time in 1949 and found it to be more profitable than corn and sugar cane.

Marked progress is reported in the development of new and improved varieties. The objective is to produce a longer-grain and higher-yielding variety than those now being grown. At least three improved varieties may be available by 1952 to supply a number of growers. A small supply of seed was obtained from Japan in 1949 on which tests will be started this year.

EGYPT: Rice exports by country, in terms of milled, average 1936-40, annual 1946-49

Country of destination	Average 1936-40	1946	1947	1948	1949 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Palestine	39	28	13	3	2
Syria and Lebanon	27	6	6	2/	10
Saudi Arabia	0	10	8	14	32
Cyprus	2	4	2	2/	0
Greece	40	8	3/	2/	3
Switzerland	4	0	0	2/	14
Belgium	26	0	0	2/	19
Austria	3/	0	0	2/	10
Germany, West. Zones	7	0	0	2/	4/ 21
Yugoslavia	4	0	0	2/	10
Union of S. Africa	3/	0	0	2/	33
Philippines	0	2/	2/	2/	42
India	0	2/	2/	140	198
Other countries	5/ 130	6/ 392	6/ 338	6/ 616	6/ 353
Total	279	448	367	773	747

1/ December-November, 1948-49. 2/ If any, included in "Other countries." 3/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 4/ Western zone. 5/ Includes 114 million pounds to other Europe, primarily to Netherlands, France and the Balkan countries. 6/ Primarily to United Kingdom for delivery to territories. Most of this rice was shipped to Ceylon and Malaya.

Exports of 747 million pounds during 1949 approximated the record of the year before. Deliveries of nearly 200 million pounds to India showed a gain over the preceding year. Purchases by the United Kingdom totaling

306 million pounds were delivered primarily to Ceylon and Malaya. A sizeable quantity was shipped to the Philippines. The volume exported to Europe increased in such countries as Western Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Switzerland. Other destinations of importance were Pakistan, 11 million pounds, and the United States Army, 21 million pounds.

Hard currency is reported to have been received for all the shipments listed above except the following:

1. Palestine paid in Egyptian pounds.

2. The German purchase was credited to the offset account established under the provisions of the trade agreement.

3. The shipment to Yugoslavia was made in exchange for corn.

4. Corn was obtained in exchange for 11 million pounds of the 33 million pounds shipped to the Union of South Africa.

5. Pakistan, the United Kingdom and India settled in pounds sterling.

Wholesale, retail, and export prices, as well as prices paid to growers, are fixed by the Government. The official wholesale and retail prices of rice for domestic consumption during 1949 were the same as in 1948 and are shown in the following table.

EGYPT: Milled rice, official wholesale
and retail prices, 1949

Grade	Wholesale			Retail		
	LE per 100 kilograms	Dollars per 100 lbs.		Milliems per oke	Cents per pound	
		Before Sept. 20	Beginning Sept. 20		Before Sept. 20	Beginning Sept. 20
	LE	Dollars	Dollars	Milliems	Cents	Cents
Cargo	2.88	5.42	3.75	38.5	.058	.04
Mansouh (ordinary)	3.085	5.81	4.02	40.4	.061	.042
Mansouh (natural)	3.135	5.90	4.08	41.0	.062	.043
Glazed	3.185	6.00	4.15	42.0	.063	.044

Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Egypt's large rice surpluses since the war have been sold abroad at relatively high prices. Foreign purchases of the 1949 crop, however, have declined to some extent, and export prices were reduced on February 20, when a new export price schedule was announced. According to this schedule, prices for rice exchanged for certain specified commodities of barter remain the same as those published in November 1949, but those for rice exported for United States and Canadian dollars and Swiss and Belgian francs were decreased. The announcement follows:

"The Cereals Committee in its meeting on February 15, 1950, decided that the price of rice to be exported on the barter system for wheat, corn, sugar or iron bars should be as follows per metric ton gross (per Egyptian pound of $2.87), f.o.b. Alexandria, including export and municipal taxes:

Grade	Egyptian pounds per metric ton	U.S. Dollars per 100 pounds
Cargo..........	45.5	5.92
Mansouh........	47.8	6.22
Natural........	50.15	6.53
Natural (extra)	50.7	6.60
Polished.......	51.15	6.66

These prices also apply to exports against offset dollars.

"In anticipation of obtaining free United States and Canadian dollars or Swiss and Belgian francs, the Committee decided to further reduce the prices for export against these currencies only, as follows:

Grade	Egyptian pounds per metric ton	U.S. Dollars per 100 pounds
Cargo..........	38.8	5.05
Mansouh........	41.1	5.35
Natural........	43.45	5.66
Natural (extra)	44.0	5.73
Polished.......	44.45	5.79

These prices apply to any quantity of rice that is exported, regardless of amount. Previous notice on export prices is hereby cancelled."

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 5-50 March 13, 1950

RICE - THAILAND[1]

(Fourth Quarter 1949 and Annual Review)

Foreign Trade

Thailand's rice exports for the calendar year 1949 totaled 1,340,200 short tons. These shipments were classified as follows (1,000 short tons):

Allocated Rice	1,271.0
Infested Rice	8.1
Grade C or Brewers Rice	22.9
Glutinous Rice (Rejected by country to which allocated)	38.2
Total shipments	1,340.2

Shipments were heaviest during the first 5 months of the year when approximately 60 percent of total exports were despatched. Shipments during October were light because of a controversy over proposals of the Government of Thailand to increase prices. During a 10-day period no shipments left port.

Shipments for the fourth quarter of 1949 were as follows (1,000 short tons):

Allocated Rice	253.5
Infested Rice	0.5
Grade C or Brewers Rice	10.7
Glutinous Rice (Rejected by country to which allocated)	34.5
Total shipments	299.2

Three countries, India, Malaya and Indonesia, received 58½ percent of total rice exports for the year. Ceylon, Japan and China each received about 80,000 tons. Other shipments were distributed to 16 countries. Practically all shipments to China were made as part of the American Relief Program that ceased during September. Shipments to Japan were begun in April.

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[1] Based on report by Graham S. Quate, American Embassy, Bangkok.

Twenty-four firms or agencies were engaged in the exportation of rice from Thailand during 1949. Approximately 66 percent of total shipments were handled by two firms; 22 percent by two other organizations, while the Commodity Credit Corporation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, shipped 85,000 short tons, or about 6 percent of the total[2]. Thus five shippers handled 94 percent of all exports.

In making allocations for 1949, a target of 1,290,000 short tons had been decided upon. Actual allocated shipments fell short of this target by only 18,681 tons. Shipments of all kinds of rice outside allocations amounted to 69,224 tons.

Officially reported shipments during 1949 exceeded those of 1948 by 444,918 short tons, representing an increase of nearly 50 percent.

Production and Consumption

Rice is grown in all parts of Thailand under greatly diversified conditions. However, approximately 60 percent comes from the Central Plain with its extensive network of navigable waterways over which paddy and milled rice move to Bangkok, the Kingdom's principal distribution center.

Latest official estimates place over-all production for 1949 at 5,930,000 short tons of paddy from which was obtained approximately 3,914,000 tons of milled rice, including all grades. Of this amount, 1,341,000 short tons (including an estimated 550 tons of smuggled shipments) were exported and 2,573,000 tons were consumed locally. Accordingly, during 1949 Thailand consumed about two-thirds of its total rice production and exported the remainder.

Marketing

The marketing of all export rice is strictly controlled by the Government. This control is accomplished through a somewhat complicated marketing system, one of the stated objectives of which is to provide for "the leveling of local prices of rice used for internal consumption."

Rice exporters were obliged during 1949 to sell all foreign exchange received from sales to the Bank of Thailand, the Government bank of issue. Because there was a wide margin between the official rate of exchange and the open market rate, the Government made a substantial profit on all such shipments. During 1950, exporters will be exempted from the obligation of selling at official rates any foreign exchange received in excess of officially established prices for rice.

All rice destined for export becomes the property of the Government of Thailand. Millers who have accumulated stocks of milled rice which they desire to sell to the export trade must report such stocks to the Thai Rice

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[2] Shipment of CCC rice was completed in May 1949.

Office and enter into sales contracts with that agency. Exporting firms and agencies must, on the other hand, contact what is known as the Thai Rice Bureau to arrange for the purchase of export rice. The title to all export rice passes from the miller to the Rice Office, from the Rice Office to the Rice Bureau, and from the Rice Bureau to the exporting firm or agency. Theoretically, the miller and the exporter do not come into contact with one another until after all arrangements have been completed for the transfer of title. Payments for purchases by the exporter are not made to the Rice Office nor to the Rice Bureau but are handled in the following manner: The foreign purchaser deposits the total purchase price (f.o.b. ship in Bangkok) to the credit of the exporting firm; from this sum an amount representing the official price, which does not include bagging, handling charges, insurance and profits to the exporting firm, is deposited with the Bank of London or with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, depending upon whether the sale was made in a dollar or a pound sterling area. The Bank of London or the Federal Reserve, whichever the case may be, then credits the Bank of Thailand with the amount received. Proceeds are then distributed to the various beneficiaries of the transaction in the following approximate proportions, which are based on one metric ton of milled rice sold for U.S. dollars at the average official price of $112.00 ($123.00 a short ton):

Recipient	Item	Baht	U.S. Dollars	
		(Metric ton)	(Metric ton)	(Short ton)
Bank of Thailand	Profit on exchange (Approx.)		$ 34.00	$ 37.48
Thai Treasury	Surtax[3]	280		
Rice Office	Administrative expenses	200		
Rice Miller	Milling costs (Estimated)	150		
Customs Bureau	Export duties (Average)	50		
Middleman	Paddy purchase and transport	100		
The Farmer	Production returns	900		
	Total proceeds	1,680	$ 34.00	$ 37.48

In connection with the foregoing, the reader should note that the Baht 1,400 given to the Rice Office, rice miller, Customs Bureau, middleman and farmer (excluding Baht 280 to the Treasury) amounts to the average official price of $112 when converted into dollars at the official rate of Baht 12.50 to the dollar. The $34.00 retained by the Bank of Thailand represents the difference between the average open market rate of exchange (taken at about 21.50 Baht to U.S. $1.00 during 1949) and the official rate of exchange. It should also be noted that the tabulation above applies only to the situation which existed after the date on which the official rate of exchange was depreciated from 10 to 12.50 Baht to the U.S. Dollar.

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[3] The handling of the surtax is not clear. It is understood that it was originally fix at £8 per ton, this being the assumed minimum profit to the Government of Thailand. In any case the sum of Baht 280 (computed at the rate of Baht 35 to the Pound) is included in the total amount earned by the Government of Thailand on rice exports.

Total government revenues produced from the sale of one ton of milled rice of average quality, sold in the dollar area are approximately as follows:

Governmental Agency	Official Baht	U.S. Dollars (Metric ton)	U.S. Dollars (Short ton)
The Bank of Thailand		$ 34.00	$ 37.48
Thailand Treasury	280		
Thai Rice Office	200		
Customs Bureau	50		
Total	530	$ 34.00	$ 37.48

From revenues derived from sales of export rice during 1949 the Government of Thailand reports that it allotted 15,000,000 Baht as subsidies designed to reduce the price of rice consumed within the Kingdom.

Foreign exchange earned from the sale of export rice during 1949 was distributed by currency as follows:

Kind of Exchange	Amount Received
Pounds Sterling	38,250,585
U.S. Dollars	36,901,375
Swiss Francs	1,043,732

Official prices for export rice during 1949 were determined by negotiation between the British and Thai Governments. For this purpose milled white rice is classified into six grades based on percentage of broken grains; three called "A" grades which consist entirely of large pieces of broken rice; and four "C" grades which consist entirely of medium and small particles of broken rice. The three smaller of the "C" grades are ordinarily called Brewers rice. Glutinous rice is placed in a separate category.

The average price of all rice exported amounted to about £40 or $112.00 per metric ton ($5.08 per 100 pounds). Official prices for all grades were as shown below:

Grade of Rice	Pounds Sterling	U.S. Dollars	
	(Metric ton)	(Metric ton)	(100 pounds)
Sublime - 5% broken	44- 8-9	$ 124.43	$ 5.64
Extra super - 10% broken	42-18-9	120.23	5.45
Super - 15% broken	41- 8-9	116.03	5.26
Special - 20% broken	39-18-9	111.83	5.07
No. 1 - 25% broken	38- 8-9	107.63	4.88
No. 2 - 35% broken	34- 9-0	96.46	4.38
A. 1 Super	33-18-9	95.03	4.31
A. 1 Special	32-18-9	92.23	4.18
A. 1 Ordinary	31- 8-9	88.03	3.99
C. 1 Special	27- 8-9	76.83	3.48
C. 1 Ordinary	26- 8-9	74.03	3.36
C. 3 Special	19- 8-9	54.43	2.47
C. 3 Ordinary	18-18-9	53.03	2.41

Source: Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

Proportionate quantities of the various grades exported were approximately as follows:

Group	Percent of total
White rice, 6 grades, 5% to 35% broken	60
The 3 "A" grades, large broken grains	20
The 4 "C" grades, small broken or Brewers	5
Glutinous rices	15

Paddy is generally placed in four grades for pricing purposes. Paddy prices, f.o.b. Bangkok mills during 1949 averaged as follows:

Type	Quality	Grade	Average price	
			Bahts per metric ton	Dollars per 100 pounds
Heavy	Superior	Nasuan No. 1	790	1.52
Heavy	Average	Nasuan No. 2	765	1.48
Light	Superior	Kao Bow No. 1	710	1.37
Light	Average	Kao Bow No. 2	680	1.31

Toward the close of the year, and particularly during the first month of 1950 prices of paddy declined. As of January 20, 1950, quoted prices for paddy were as follows:

	Bahts per metric ton	Dollars per 100 pounds
Heavy, superior	690	1.33
Heavy, average	680	1.31
Light, superior	660	1.27
Light, average	650	1.25

Some 865 rice mills are scattered throughout Thailand, and of this number approximately 94 are located in the Bangkok district. Paddy for milling is transported to Bangkok by river boat and railroad. During the year a total of 474,241 metric tons (523,000 short tons) of paddy arrived in Bangkok. Over 80 percent of this quantity or 383,397 tons (423,000 short tons) of paddy were brought into the city by small boats ranging in capacity from 10 to 30 tons.

Wholesale prices for milled rice to be sold on Bangkok markets for consumption within the Kingdom as of January 20, 1950, were as follows:

	Bahts per kilogram	Cents per pound [4/]
Milled rice, 5% broken	1.18	2.3
Milled rice, 10% broken	1.15	2.2
Milled rice, 15% broken	1.13	2.2
Milled rice, 25% broken	1.07	2.1
Large, broken	0.90	1.7
Small, broken	0.63	1.2
Glutinous, superior	1.17	2.3
Glutinous, average	1.13	2.2

4/ Converted into U.S. currency at the current open market rate of 23.50 Baht for U.S. $1.00.

Table 1 - Rice shipments from Thailand, 1949

(1,000 short tons)

Month	Allocated Rice	Infested rice	Grade C or Brewers rice	Rejected glutinous	Gift Rice	Total
January........	112.9	-	-	-	-	112.9
February.......	162.8	1.1	-	-	-	163.9
March..........	171.8	1.6	-	-	-	173.4
April..........	152.5	1.7	-	-	-	154.3
May............	112.0	-	0.2	-	-	112.2
June...........	83.1	0.5	6.1	-	-	89.8
July...........	77.6	1.0	1.8	-	-	80.3
August.........	45.6	1.8	0.9	-	-	48.2
September......	99.2	-	3.1	3.7	1/	106.0
October........	34.0	-	4.7	-	-	38.7
November.......	56.9	-	2.0	6.4	-	65.3
December.......	162.7	0.4	4.1	28.1	-	195.2
Total....	1,271.1	8.1	22.9	38.2	1/	1,340.2

1/ 2.8 short tons.

Source: Statistics published by Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

Table 2 - Destination of rice shipments from Thailand, 1949

Destination		Total shipped
		1,000 short tons
India		345.8
Indonesia (Netherland's responsibility)		148.4
Indonesia Republic		1.1
Sarawak		16.1
North Borneo		11.3
Hong Kong		59.1
Malaya		287.2
Ceylon		95.9
Philippines		41.7
Portuguese Macao		1.7
China		86.6
Chinese Government	1.5	
American Aid	84.9	
Standard Vacuum Oil Company	0.2	
Kuwait		4.2
United Kingdom		28.8
Eire		3.2
Czechoslovakia		0.8
Norway		5.1
Holland		25.8
Switzerland		1.5
Sweden		8.8
Denmark		3.0
Austria		2.0
Belgium		1.4
Japan		90.1
U.N.I.C.E.F.		1.4
C. Grade Rice		22.9
Infested Rice		8.1
Rejected Rice		38.2
Gift Rice		1/
Total		1,340.2

1/ 2.8 short tons.

Source: Statistics published by the Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

Table 3 - Shipment of Thailand rice by firms or agencies, 1949

Name of firm or agency	Shipped during 1949	Shipped since beginning of allocations
	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons
Siam Rice Agency Limited	537.0	1,600.7
Far Eastern Continental Grain Company	125.9	329.6
Commodity Credit Corporation (U.S.D.A.)	84.9	399.0
Gangjee Premjee & Company	345.8	562.9
National Rice & Corn Corporation	43.4	134.9
Steel Brothers & Company, Ltd.	-	0.9
Thai Niyom Panich	-	1.7
Thai Rice Company	0.9	1.4
Rotterdam Trading Company	170.8	173.0
Siamese American Trading Co., Ltd.	3.3	3.3
Commercial Company of Siam, Ltd.	0.2	0.2
Thai Maritime Navigation Company	3.0	3.0
Eastern International Development Company	2.6	2.6
Thonburi Phanich Company, Ltd.	5.2	5.2
Thai Prasit Company, Ltd.	0.9	.9
Salyalak Company, Ltd.	5.3	5.3
South East Asia Trading Company (Siam)	3.4	3.4
Taharn Cooperation Company, Ltd.	2.2	2.2
Siam Trading Company, Ltd.	2.2	2.2
S. R. Brothers, Ltd.	0.6	.6
Wang Lee Company, Ltd.	.2	.2
Siam Rice and Trading Company, Ltd.	.6	.6
W.V.O. Agricultural Company, Ltd.	.3	.3
Bangkok Exporter Company	.6	.6
Sin Prasithi Panich	.2	.2
Long Sen Chan	.3	.3
Ariya Thai Company, Ltd.	.4	.4
Chinese Donated Rice	-	1.2
Thai Government Special Gift Rice	1/	.7
3% Inducement Scheme	-	8.0
Total	1,340.2	3,245.5

1/ 2.8 short tons.

Source: Statistics published by the Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

Table 4 - Foreign exchange accruing to Thailand from rice exports, 1949

Recipient	Short tons	Sterling	Dollars	Swiss Francs
India	345,829	12,446,510		
Indonesia)	148,204	5,279,352		
Indonesia Republic)				
(Glutinous rice)	331	12,431		
Sarawak	(16,051	610,007		
(Glutinous rice)	(77			
North Borneo	11,295	428,428		
Hong Kong	59,067	2,124,617		
(C Grade rice)	1,058	25,610		
Malaya	288,658	10,288,999		
(Infested rice)	8,131	218,670		
(C Grade rice)	15,427	378,348		
Ceylon	95,906	3,428,607		
Philippines	(41,723	35,555	6,545,506	
(Glutinous rice)	(3,704			
(Gift rice)	3			
Portuguese Macao	1,653		166,688	
(C Grade rice)	430	10,701		
China:				
Chinese Govt	1,531	58,812		
American Aid	84,877		12,271,163	
Standard Vacuum Co	165		26,862	
Kuwait	4,187	167,414		
United Kingdom	(28,770	1,194,953		
(C Grade rice)	(3,307			
Eire	(3,187	129,792		
(C Grade rice)	(94			
Czechoslovakia	772	30,958		
Norway	5,104	186,418		
Holland	(25,793	692,397	966,000	
(C Grade rice)	(1,356			
Switzerland	1,483		6,815	1,043,732
Sweden	(8,795	357,289		
(C Grade rice)	(110			
Denmark	2,976	119,981		
Belgium	(1,378		223,761	
(C Grade rice	(1,070			
Austria	(1,984		236,250	
(Glutinous rice)	(220			
Japan	(90,245		16,358,644	
(Glutinous rice)	(33,907			
U.N.I.C.E.F.	1,378	24,736	99,686	
Total	1,340,235	38,250,585	36,901,375	1,043,732

Source: Statistics published by the Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

Table 5 - Prices of paddy, 1949

(Dollars per 100 pounds)

Month	Nasuan		Kao Bow	
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 1	No. 2
January	1.54-1.55	1.48-1.49	1.35-1.39	1.30-1.35
February	1.48-1.56	1.43-1.52	1.33-1.42	1.28-1.35
March	1.55-1.56	1.51-1.52	1.40-1.42	1.33-1.35
April	1.55-1.57	1.51-1.52	1.40-1.42	1.33-1.35
May	1.55-1.57	1.51-1.52	1.38-1.42	1.33-1.39
June	1.55	1.51	1.38	1.33
July	1.55	1.52	1.39	1.34
August	1.55-1.57	1.52-1.53	1.39-1.41	1.34-1.36
September	1.55-1.57	1.49-1.53	1.36-1.41	1.30-1.36
October	1.55	1.49	1.36	1.30
November	1.51-1.55	1.44-1.49	1.31-1.36	1.25-1.30
December	1.50-1.51	1.43-1.44	1.30-1.51	1.24-1.25

Source: Rice Shipping Coordination Committee Statistics.

Table 6 - Monthly arrivals of paddy in Bangkok, 1949

(1,000 short tons)

Month	By water	By rail
January	64.5	9.8
February	59.8	9.8
March	68.6	10.5
April	37.1	9.1
May	19.3	11.0
June	16.6	9.8
July	13.5	6.1
August	24.8	5.7
September	29.1	5.4
October	31.3	7.7
November	25.5	9.1
December	32.5	6.1
Total	422.6	100.1

Source: Statistics published by Rice Shipping Coordination Committee.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 6-50 March 20, 1950

RICE--BURMA 1/

Outlook

Burma's exportable supplies of rice during 1950 are estimated at between 1,800 and 2,600 million pounds in terms of milled rice. If stocks in the interior are moved to ports, exports may be as large as in 1949, when approximately 2,600 million pounds were delivered to foreign countries. Availabilities are from the small 1949-50 crop and large carry-over stocks of 1948-49 rice held previously in the interior of the country.

BURMA: Rice production, trade, and apparent disappearance, 1939-40/40-41 and 1945-46/1949-50

Year	Acreage sown	Yield per acre	Production: Rough	Production: In terms of milled	Exports 1/	Apparent disappearance 1/
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1939-40...	12,432	1,136	14,121.0	9,885	5,991	3,894
1940-41...	12,819	1,382	17,720.1	12,404	2/7,300	5,104
1945-46...	6,274	939	5,890.4	4,123	960	3,163
1946-47...	7,910	1,069	8,457.5	5,920	1,779	4,141
1947-48...	9,597	1,269	12,174.4	8,522	2,725	5,797
1948-49...	10,449	1,140	11,911.9	8,338	2,632	5,706
1949-50...	9,109	980	8,931.1	6,252	3/2,600	-

1/ Calendar year following December harvest. Exports are mostly milled rice, but include some rough rice converted to terms of milled at 70 percent. 2/ Unofficial estimate. 3/ Unofficial estimate of exportable supplies.

Compiled from official sources and Embassy reports.

1/ Based on a report from D. Klein, Third Secretary, American Embassy, Rangoon, Burma.

The 1949-50 harvest (October-February) is officially estimated at 8,930 million pounds of rough rice (6,250 million pounds milled), or 25 percent below the year before, and only 57 percent of the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average. The third forecast of acreage likely to mature is 10 percent less than the final estimate of the year before. No information has been reported concerning the 1950-51 acreage to be planted in June.

All forecasts, including official estimates, are based on fragmentary information of questionable reliability. It is known, however, that in remote areas, cultivators were unable to dispose of a large part of the preceding year's crop. Considerable destruction occurred in areas where there was active fighting. Dispossessed families in burned out villages left acres of rice land fallow, and fields away from villages were abandoned.

More than a million acres of rice land abandoned during the war have not been restored to cultivation. There is still a shortage of buffaloes because of large losses during the Japanese occupation of the country. A large number of implements are in need of replacement, and procurement is difficult. Implements used for rice production are of primitive design and are adapted to the use of water buffalo.

Review of 1949

Reversing the postwar upward trend in the recovery of rice trade, Burma's 1949 exports declined 3 percent compared with the year before and were less than one-half of the prewar average. Exports totaled 2,632 million pounds in terms of milled rice, excluding bran, compared with 2,725 million pounds in the preceding year. Rice bran exports totaled 88 million pounds, of which 85 million pounds were shipped to the United Kingdom.

Rice is the export commodity with which Burma sustains domestic economy. It is also its principal food. Despite the reduced acreages, smaller yields per acre, and extremely difficult transportation problems, that country in 1949 had sufficient rice for domestic needs and it ranked as the world's second largest exporter. Deliveries were only slightly less than those of Thailand. This is in sharp contrast, however, with Burma's prewar exports (1936-40) of more than 6,000 million pounds, or more than twice Thailand's prewar rice exports.

The small mills special, a short-grain with 38 to 42 percent brokens, white brokens, and Sughandi, a long-grain rice, comprised the bulk of Burma's rice exports. Shipments in 1949 as a whole were heaviest during the dry months January to May, from the end of the harvest to the onset of the monsoon. During these months, Burma exported 58 percent of the year's trade. This seasonal export trend is explained by inadequate storage facilities and the fact that rice tends to deteriorate in the rainy season.

BURMA: Rice (milled) exports by country of destination, average 1936-40, annual 1946-49

Country of destination	Average 1936-1940	1946	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
ASIA					
India	3,532	534	767	1,110	837
Ceylon	807	97	246	684	594
Malaya	508	267	298	443	326
Indonesia	156	32	106	132	297
Borneo	2/	2	10	23	2/
Hong Kong	2/	28	207	82	38
China	117	0	126	136	89
Korea	3/ 233	0	0	0	2/
Japan		0	0	2/	122
Pakistan	4/	4/	2/	2/	125
United Kingdom	128	0	6	76	63
Other Europe	497	0	0	5	2/
Mauritius	61	0	0	25	2/
Other countries	465	0	13	9	141
Total	6,504	960	1,779	2,725	2,632

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not separately reported. 3/ To Japan, Korea and Taiwan. 4/ Included in imports to India.

Compiled from Embassy reports.

In 1949 there was the added factor of increasing internal disorder. During the first half of the year Rangoon was cut off from the rest of Burma, except for rough rice shipments in small river boats and in an occasional truck from the Prome area. Shipments during the early part of the year were maintained only by delivery of large stocks that had accumulated in Rangoon in the previous December and January. As these reserves were depleted, shipments became progressively smaller.

Burma made the first deliveries of rice to Japan in September in accordance with the Burma-Japan Trade Agreement of 1949, which provided for the shipment of 157 million pounds. By the end of the year, 122 million pounds had been shipped. Exports under this agreement ceased during December as a result of protracted negotiations for a price readjustment when Japan failed to devalue its currency. Burma proposed that the price be increased to £54 per ton ($6.75 a 100 pounds) to permit the full exchange of goods envisaged under the terms of the barter agreement at the time it was negotiated. Japan finally agreed to pay £41 5s per ton ($5.16 a 100 pounds) compared with the previously agreed price of £38 ($4.75 a 100 pounds), and arrangements were made to complete shipments under the terms of the trade agreement during January 1950.

The State Agricultural Marketing Board is responsible for the procurement and export of surplus rice and for the maintenance of equitable distribution within the country. The Board, the only official exporter of rice in 1949, purchased the surplus, either directly from the millers or through dealers designated on a commission basis. Milled-rice prices were fixed by the Government and millers were required to pay prices for rough rice related directly to those prices. The Board increased the direct purchasing during the year particularly in the port areas. More than 60 percent was purchased directly by the Board, and the proportion in 1950 is expected to be 80 percent.

BURMA: Rice (excluding bran) exports, by quarter, 1949

Country of destination	Quarter				Total 1/
	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Ceylon	246	153	81	115	595
China	19	50	20	0	89
Hong Kong	17	10	11	1/	38
India	433	239	160	5	837
Indonesia	55	93	58	91	297
Japan	0	0	36	86	122
Malaya	102	157	52	14	325
Pakistan	31	8	86	0	125
United Kingdom	2	4	35	23	64
Other countries	31	49	39	21	140
Total	936	763	578	355	2,632

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from Embassy report.

The Marketing Board in 1949 sold rice for export at fixed prices in accordance with the recommendations of the International Emergency Food Council regarding the quantity and destination. Private enterprise was allowed to operate within the framework of Government policy. Rice mills were operated by private interests, but the millers were licensed and complied on milling rates with Government regulations.

The principal problem was the transportation of the surplus through the rebel-controlled areas. Lack of facilities and insecurity of workers hindered the movement from the interior to the shipping points, because the insurgents controlled the strategic areas along the rail and river routes and determined the quantities that could be moved. Toward the end of the year, when the movement of rice from the interior was almost completely stopped, the Board, with the assistance of the Burmese Navy, organized armed convoys for the purpose of moving stocks from the western Delta to Bassein and Rangoon. During November and December, more than 100 million pounds were moved to ports by these convoys. Stocks at ports were very small at the end of the year, however, and the last rice shipped was of poor quality.

Rangoon and Bassein continued to be Burma's principal rice ports. Moulmein and Akyab were used principally during the dry season. In relative importance, based on the percentage of rice shipments, the ports ranked as follows: Rangoon, 61; Bassein, 23; Moulmein, 9; and Akyab, 7. The large mills located near Rangoon and Bassein handle the bulk of the rice trade, and small mills in the growing areas serve the local requirements. Under the present conditions of operation, however, some importers have paid the added costs entailed in transporting rough rice and have saved on the cost of processing rice and rice products by using more efficient plants at home.

More than 80 percent of the crop is produced in the alluvial, clay soils of Lower Burma, the area supplying all of the exports. Cultivation here generally begins in June as soon as the first showers of the monsoon soften the ground sufficiently to permit breaking. Harvesting starts late in October at the end of the monsoon and continues until February. In Lower Burma, rice is not rotated with any crop, since there is no crop which can be economically cultivated between the harvesting and planting season in a soil which is almost a cement-like hardness during the dry season.

Rice prices remained relatively stable in 1949 and were approximately the same as in 1948, or about 350 percent higher than before the war. Export prices, except to Japan, remained fixed throughout the year. The Small Mills Special, the major trade type, was sold £38 a long ton ($4.75 a 100 pounds) f.o.b. Rangoon, Bassein, Moulmein and Akyab.

Burma produces more than one thousand varieties of rice, according to that country's Department of Agriculture. Cultivators, however, recognize four general types, determined by the time the crops are ready for harvesting. These types are: (1) Kaukyin, or early varieties with a life period of 140-150 days, which ripen at the middle or end of October; (2) Kauklat, or medium-lived varieties, with a life period of 150-170 days, that ripen about the middle or end of November; (3) Kaukkyi, or the late rice with a life period of 170-200 days, that ripens early in December, and (4) Mayin, or spring rice, which is planted around the marshes about November and harvested the following March.

The Kaukkyis and the Kauklats are the most important. The Kaukkyis are comprised of the Ngasein (short-grain) and Byat (long-grain) types, and most of the Midon types (short-grain). The Kauklats include the small-grain of Ngasein (short-grain), all the Letywezin (long-grain) and Emata (long-grain Sughandi) types.

Programs for the improvement of varieties and cultivation methods have been curtailed because of a shortage in funds. Within the limits of a tight budget, the Department of Agriculture has been able to conduct agricultural instruction, work on the improvement of varieties, fertilizers, seeds, and insect control only on a very limited basis.

BURMA: Export prices of rice and rice products, 1945-46/48-49, and 1949-50 proposed (July-June)

Grade	Unit	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48 and 1948-49	1949-50	
					Beginning Sept. 20	Proposed
White Rice						
Ngatsein Ngakyauk Small	£, long ton	28	33-1/3	38	38	40
Mills Specials, 42%	$, 100 lbs.	5.04	6.00	6.84	4.75	5.00
Ngatsein Ngakyauk Small	£, long ton	-	-	-	-	41
Mills Specials, 38%	$, 100 lbs.	-	-	-	-	5.12
Meedone Bazaar Quality,	£, long ton	28	33-1/3	38	38	41
38% broken	$, 100 lbs.	5.04	6.00	6.84	4.75	5.12
Sughandi S.M.S., 32%	£, long ton	-	34-5/6	39-1/2	39-1/2	42
broken (long-grain)	$, 100 lbs.	-	6.27	7.11	4.94	5.25
Boiled Rice						
Long boiled, 10%	£, long ton	-	35-5/6	40-1/2	40-1/2	43
broken	$, 100 lbs.	-	6.45	7.29	5.06	5.38
Milchar, No. 1,	£, long ton	23-1/4	34-1/3	39	39	42
8% broken	$, 100 lbs.	4.18	6.18	7.02	4.88	5.25
Milchar, No. 2,	£, long ton	23-1/4	34-1/3	39	39	41-1/2
8% broken	$, 100 lbs.	4.19	6.18	7.02	4.88	5.19
Full Boiled, 12%	£, long ton	23-1/4	34-1/3	39	39	41
broken	$, 100 lbs.	4.19	6.18	7.02	4.88	5.12
Brokens						
White rice (Nos. 2,3,	£, long ton	12-3/4	21	25-2/3	25-2/3	27-2/3
and 4 mixed)	$, 100 lbs.	2.29	3.78	4.62	3.21	3.46
Boiled (Nos. 2,3,	£, long ton	-	21	25-2/3	25-2/3	27-2/3
and 4 mixed)	$, 100 lbs.	-	3.78	4.62	3.21	3.46
Loonsein (brown)						
Sughandi	£, long ton	-	-	35	35	37
	$, 100 lbs.			6.30	4.38	4.62
Ngatsein Ngakyauk	£, long ton	-	-	34	34	36
	$, 100 lbs.			6.12	4.25	4.50

Compiled from Embassy report.

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 7-50 May 29, 1950

WORLD RICE PRODUCTION DECLINES IN 1949-50

The world rice harvest for 1949-50 (August-July) is estimated at 334,000 million pounds of rough rice, 3 percent less than the postwar high of 343,000 million pounds in the year before, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Most of the decline occurred in Asia, with a moderate decrease in Africa. Record crops were harvested in Europe, North America, and South America.

Asia's rough rice harvest, representing 92 percent of the world total, is estimated at 308,000 million pounds or about 10 million pounds less than in the preceding year. China's crop was the smallest in several years. Rebel activities in Burma and Indochina caused a decrease in the acreage and output, and slight declines occurred in Pakistan and Korea. Production was larger in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaya, Taiwan, and Japan.

July floods in China resulted in a pronounced decline in the harvest, estimated at 98,000 million pounds of rough rice from 45,630,000 acres. This compares with 106,000 million pounds in the preceding year on approximately the same acreage. Before the war production and acreage averaged (1931-37) 110,000 million pounds and 48,850,000 acres, respectively.

The official estimate of production of India's reported areas is 73,693 million pounds, a slight gain over 73,061 million in the year before. The acreage is officially reported at 71,660,000 acres, an increase of 2 percent from a year earlier. Changes in the reporting basis of some areas of India added about 10 million acres formerly not reported, so that current statistics are not comparable with those reported prior to 1948-49. In most of India's producing areas, weather conditions were favorable with the exception of Madras where crops were damaged by the failure of the northeast monsoon.

The rough rice production of Asia's surplus area--Thailand, Burma, and Indochina--is estimated at 33,000 million pounds, a reduction of 1,800 million from the preceding year, and 7,000 million less than the prewar average. Burma's acreage fell 21 percent, or 2,070,000 acres below 1948-49, and production was 16 percent less. The crop is estimated at only 57 percent of the prewar average.

In Indochina, conditions similar to those in Burma indicate acreage and production have been declining since 1947-48. The 1949-50 crop estimate is 84 percent of the prewar average.

RICE, ROUGH: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36 to 1944-45, annual 1947-48 to 1949-50 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average					Average					Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA															
El Salvador	26	45	45	48	48	1,212	1,027	1,369	1,444	1,444	31.5	46.2	61.6	69.3	69.3
Mexico	95	155	179	210	267	1,898	1,547	1,697	1,764	1,528	180.3	239.8	303.8	370.4	407.9
Panama	50	3/ 79	128	134	148	1,440	1,320	1,050	1,240	1,191	72.0	3/ 104.3	134.4	166.1	176.2
United States	1,004	1,338	1,693	1,781	1,821	2,234	2,046	2,080	2,149	2,203	2,243.3	2,738.2	3,521.7	3,827.5	4,011.3
Cuba	45	69	120	123	120	964	1,035	1,075	1,098	1,117	43.4	71.4	129.0	135.0	134.0
Dominican Republic	80	3/ 98	78	114	106	1,062	3/ 1,204	1,217	1,085	1,243	85.0	107.1	94.9	123.7	131.8
Total	1,421	1,943	2,430	2,630	2,710	-	-	-	-	-	2,800.0	3,511.0	4,493.0	4,970.0	5,203.0
EUROPE															
Bulgaria	19	28	-	-	-	2,463	2,361	-	-	-	46.8	66.1	-	-	-
France	1	1	4	10	19	1,400	1,600	2,125	2,200	2,553	1.4	1.6	8.5	22.0	48.5
Greece	5	3	7	9	19	1,840	2,100	2,014	2,200	2,321	9.2	6.3	14.1	19.8	44.1
Italy	362	381	327	353	326	4,677	4,310	4,720	4,372	4,565	1,692.9	1,642.0	1,543.5	1,543.5	1,488.1
Portugal	47	60	65	68	54	3,253	2,847	2,917	2,971	3,028	152.9	170.8	189.6	202.0	163.5
Spain	110	121	130	137	130	4,336	4,314	4,019	[illegible]	4,409	477.0	522.0	522.5	518.1	573.2
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	553	615	578	650	630	-	-	-	-	-	2,393.0	2,443.0	2,381.0	2,476.0	2,493.1
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	3/ 384	-	-	-	-	3/ 1,901	-	-	-	-	3/ 730.1	697.5	675.0	-	-
ASIA															
Iran	3/ 534	580	544	544	544	3/ 1,566	1,638	1,291	1,418	1,499	836.0	950.0	702.2	771.5	815.6
Iraq	3/ 386	479	-	-	-	3/ 1,303	1,400	-	-	-	502.9	670.7	573.2	661.4	771.6
Turkey	78	66	59	59	64	2,754	2,662	2,056	3,453	2,214	214.8	175.7	121.3	203.7	141.7
Burma	12,671	10,650	9,286	9,921	7,849	1,238	1,162	1,311	1,079	1,145	15,683.3	12,375.0	12,174.4	10,702.0	8,986.0
China	4/ 48,853	45,000	45,373	45,617	45,631	4/ 2,259	2,200	2,260	2,328	2,150	4/ 110,372.0	99,000.0	102,529.6	106,200.0	98,100.0
Taiwan	1,616	1,539	1,631	1,782	1,819	2,387	2,120	1,977	1,894	2,034	3,856.7	3,262.7	3,225.0	3,375.0	3,700.0
Manchuria	782	975	-	-	-	1,829	1,585	-	-	-	1,430.2	1,545.1	1,028.2	1,000.0	800.0
India - reporting	5/	5/	5/	70,275	71,660	-	-	-	1,040	1,028	5/	5/	5/	73,061.2	73,693.4
India - nonreporting	5/	5/	5/	1,313	1,313	-	-	-	1,555	1,555	5/	5/	5/	2,041.3	2,041.3
India - total	5/	5/	5/	(71,588)	(72,973)	-	-	-	(1,049)	(1,038)	5/	5/	5/	(75,102.5)	(75,734.7)

ASIA (Continued)															
French Indochina	14,306	13,000	12,900	13,500	12,000	1,006	987	1,012	950	1,012	14,396.0	12,325.0	13,050.0	12,825.0	12,150.0
Pakistan	6/18,706	20,605	21,100	21,545	21,756	6/ 1,301	1,227	1,187	1,315	1,245	6/24,339.8	25,274.3	25,044.3	28,340.0	27,082.2
Japan	7,862	7,653	7,830	7,850	7,850	3,408	3,267	3,180	3,356	3,546	26,793.1	25,003.9	24,902.8	26,343.1	27,837.9
Java and Madura	9,794	9,330	9,000	9,555	-	1,439	1,468	1,376	1,400	-	14,091.5	13,700.9	12,380.0	13,380.0	-
Korea	3,838	3,601	7/ 2,753	7/ 2,748	7/ 2,580	2,295	2,269	2,157	2,826	2,649	8,809.3	8,172.0	7/ 5,939.2	7/ 7,764.9	7/ 6,834.5
Malayan Union	746	790	862	907	920	1,635	1,424	1,368	1,204	1,546	1,219.6	1,125.0	1,179.3	1,092.2	1,422.2
Philippine Islands	4,852	5,265	5,007	5,347	5,486	973	940	987	1,027	1,041	4,719.5	4,950.0	4,940.2	5,492.3	5,711.4
Thailand	7,088	6,750	6,800	7,500	7,900	1,353	1,333	1,522	1,500	1,500	9,588.5	9,000.0	10,350.0	11,250.0	11,850.0
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	-	-	-	208,620	207,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	318,191.0	308,364.0
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	52	91	128	124	136	2,692	2,795	1,953	2,137	1,838	140.0	254.3	250.0	265.0	250.0
Brazil	2,323	3,042	4,106	4,152	-	1,287	1,409	1,371	1,301	-	2,989.1	4,285.7	5,631.3	5,400.0	6,200.0
British Guiana	70	83	107	95	-	2,289	2,199	2,002	2,212	-	160.2	182.5	214.2	210.1	-
Chile	13	68	70	60	66	4,500	3,416	2,816	3,065	3,045	58.5	232.3	197.1	183.9	201.0
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141.4	267.6	460.4	490.0	530.0
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	154.7	254.2	382.2	372.6	230.0
Paraguay	5	15	8	16	22	1,760	1,760	2,362	1,931	1,805	8.8	26.4	18.9	30.9	39.7
Peru	107	137	139	112	94	1,925	2,206	3,263	2,852	2,766	206.0	302.2	453.6	319.4	260.0
Surinam	37	33	38	45	40	2,070	2,545	1,218	2,860	2,755	76.6	84.0	46.3	128.7	110.2
Uruguay	13	13	31	36	34	2,992	2,862	2,648	2,619	2,594	38.9	37.2	82.1	94.3	88.2
Total	2,914	4,002	5,270	5,350	5,300	-	-	-	-	-	4,003.0	5,964.0	7,803.0	7,582.0	8,183.0
AFRICA															
Egypt	463	600	805	816	730	3,233	2,704	3,496	3,534	3,527	1,496.8	1,622.2	2,814.0	2,883.4	2,575.0
French West Africa	3/ 1,562	1,860	-	-	-	3/ 603	598	-	-	-	942.1	1,111.5	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,195	1,227	1,401	1,421	-	1,274	1,278	1,171	1,122	-	1,522.0	1,568.3	1,640.9	1,594.5	-
Sierra Leone	346	-	780	780	-	1,192	-	1,034	-	-	412.3	-	806.4	-	-
Total	4,326	5,433	7,180	7,310	7,330	-	-	-	-	-	5,065.0	5,851.0	8,295.0	8,370.0	8,247.0
OCEANIA															
Australia	23	30	26	31	34	4,134	3,693	4,323	3,710	3,806	95.3	110.8	112.4	115.0	129.4
Fiji	10	22	-	-	-	1,940	2,059	-	-	-	19.4	45.3	-	-	-
Total	40	72	85	90	95	-	-	-	-	-	122.0	176.0	200.0	204.0	222.0
World total	-	-	-	225,050	223,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	342,553.0	333,522.0

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 5-year average. 4/ Average 1931-37. 5/ Because of changes in the basis of reporting India's rice acreage and production of 1948-49 and 1949-50, statistics for earlier years are not comparable with the official estimates for those years. 6/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40.
7/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production averaged about 6,750 million pounds annually.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service Officers, results of Office research, and other information.

Thailand is the only country in this area where production has continued to increase since the war, and indications are the harvest was above the prewar average. The reported acreage increased in 1949, despite lack of rain which delayed planting, and favorable growing weather resulted in another bumper crop. The official estimate of production is 11,850 million pounds of rough rice.

The rice acreage of Pakistan increased about 200,000 acres, but unfavorable weather and plant diseases caused a moderate decline in the harvest compared with last year. Good weather in Japan resulted in the largest crop in 20 years. Drought conditions in South Korea during the planting season reduced the acreage 6 percent, but the yield per acre was only slightly less than in the year before.

Production in the Philippines showed a gain of 4 percent from the preceding year's record. Rice acreage has increased steadily since the war, from 4.1 million acres in 1945-46 to 5.5 million acres in 1949-50. Favorable weather in the Malayan Union resulted in a record crop from a record acreage.

Europe's 1949 crop was only slightly larger than in 1948, but well above the prewar average. Its rough rice production is estimated at 2,500 million pounds compared with 2,480 million a year earlier, and 2,400 million before the war. A decline in the rice acreage of Italy was compensated by increases in several countries having small acreages. Rice is now raised in increasing quantities in several countries of Europe where little was grown before the war. France, Greece, Hungary, and Rumania are cases in point.

Spain produced the largest crop in recent years. The area sown to rice in Portugal, however, was the smallest since 1940, and dry weather during the growing season caused an abandonment of several thousand acres. Although the yields per acre were larger than in the year before, a sizable drop occurred in production.

The total rice acreage of France, Greece, Hungary, and Rumania in 1949 is estimated at approximately 90,000 acres, an increase of around 80,000 acres from the average of 10,000 acres during the 5-year (1935-39) period. The combined production of these countries in 1949 is estimated at over 200 million pounds of rough rice compared with slightly over 10 million pounds before the war.

Africa's production decreased, but continued substantially above the prewar average. A decline in Egypt, the largest producer, was the principal factor in the reduction. Acreage declined 11 percent, but the yields per acre were as high as those harvested in the bumper crop of the year before. Madagascar's acreage reportedly is above the preceding year, and climatic conditions so far have been reported favorable. Plans for increasing production are taking shape in several countries of Africa, and the total production of that continent in coming years may show an expansion.

The record rice production of the Western Hemisphere in 1949-50 is estimated at 13,400 million pounds, slightly larger than in the year before, and about double the 6,800 million before the war. Above-average yields were harvested in both Brazil and the United States, whose combined production accounts for three-fourths of the Hemisphere total. The 1949-50 acreage of the Western Hemisphere, estimated at 8 million acres, is only slightly larger than in 1948-49, and compares with 4.3 million during the prewar average period.

North America harvested its sixth successive record rice crop. Production of 5,200 million pounds compared with 5,000 in the year before and 2,800 million before the war. In the United States, acreage was 40,000 acres above the record of the year before, and high average yields were harvested.

Mexico and Panama also again produced record crops. Mexico added nearly 60,000 acres to the preceding year's record. Although the yield per acre was below average, production exceeded 1948-49. Cuba's harvest approximated the 1949 record.

South America's record rice harvest is estimated at 8 percent larger than a year earlier, and more than double the prewar average. Excellent growing weather in Brazil from January through April resulted in the largest crop that country has ever produced. Colombia and Paraguay also had record harvests, and Chile's production exceeded the preceding year.

Although production was down in Argentina compared with the year before, it was 79 percent above the prewar average (1935-36/39-40) and about equal to the wartime average (1940-41/44-45) production. The crops of Surinam and Uruguay also were smaller than in the preceding year, but were well above both the prewar and wartime averages.

Ecuador's 1950 production is forecast at about 35 percent less than in 1949, as the result of reduced acreages and adverse weather in some localities. Peru will harvest a crop even smaller than in 1949. For the second year water supplies are deficient in the main rice-producing areas, and the harvest is expected to be 20 percent below last year's short crop.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of C. M. Purves, Paul E. Quintus, L. Thelma Willahan, John C. Hobbs, and John L. Wann.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 8-50 June 5, 1950

PHILIPPINE RICE CROP BREAKS PRECEDING YEAR'S RECORD [1]

The 1949-50 Philippine production of rough rice surpassed by a considerable margin the record of a year earlier. A bumper crop was harvested despite the pessimistic outlook that prevailed in the planting season when seed beds were badly infested with army worms and plantings were delayed by insufficient rainfall.

Rice production has increased steadily since the end of the war, when wartime conditions had reduced output considerably below average. The record-breaking 1949-50 harvest is estimated at 5,700 million pounds compared with 5,500 million in 1948-49 and 3,580 million pounds in 1945-46. Prewar (1935-36/39-40) production averaged 4,700 million pounds a year.

PHILIPPINES: Rice acreage and production,
averages 1935-36/44-45, annual 1945-46/49-50

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production: Rough	Production: In terms of milled
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1935-36/39-40	4,852	973	4,719.5	3,304
1940-41/44-45	5,265	940	4,950.0	3,465
1945-46	4,346	915	3,977.0	2,784
1946-47	4,644	991	4,603.6	3,223
1947-48	5,007	987	4,940.2	3,458
1948-49	5,347	1,027	5,492.3	3,845
1949-50	1/ 5,486	1/ 1,041	5,711.4	3,998

1/ Unofficial estimate.

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

The tentative estimate of rice acreage is nearly 5,500,000 acres, an increase of about 150,000 acres, or 3 percent, from the year before. Thus, the yield per acre is indicated to be about 1,040 pounds, a moderate increase from the average, attributed chiefly to good weather conditions, but in part to the use of selected seed. Estimates of total plantings from selected seeds distributed by the government are between 20 and 35 percent. The heavy 1949 and 1950 harvests, however, are due primarily to an increase in acreage rather than to an improvement in yields per acre.

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[1] Based on a report from Merrill W. Abbey, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Manila.

Production increases from the year before were recorded in all areas except northern Luzon. A drop in output in the major tobacco region of the Philippines seems to indicate that farm attention is being diverted from rice to tobacco culture. During the coming crop year, a further decrease is possible in view of the more attractive prices offered for tobacco as a result of import controls.

PHILIPPINES: Rough rice production, by region, 1938-39, 1948-49, and 1949-50

Region	1938-39		1948-49		1949-50	
	Production	Percent of total	Production	Percent of total	Production	Percent of total
	Million pounds	Percent	Million pounds	Percent	Million pounds	Percent
Northern Luzon.	642	13	742	14	710	12
Central Luzon..	1,981	39	1,805	32	1,906	33
Southern Luzon.	888	18	1,076	20	1,118	20
Visayas........	1,035	20	1,334	24	1,355	24
Mindanao.......	517	10	535	10	622	11
Total.....	5,063	100	5,492	100	5,711	100

Bureau of the Census and Statistics.

The largest gain in production occurred in central Luzon. However, while this year's crop is greater in all other areas than in 1939, central Luzon produced loss. The only decrease compared with 1939 occurred in Nueva Ecija. The Huk (rebel) problem reportedly is difficult in central Luzon, but as a whole it is more accute in Nueva Ecija where production is declining steadily. The province of Pangasinan, which today is generally the most peaceful province, has become the leading rice province of the republic.

Mindanao's crop showed the **greatest** increment over 1939, about 20 percent, or about 100 million pounds of rough rice. Particularly significant are the increases in Cotabato and Bukidnon where the production projects of the Rice and Corn Production Administration (NARIC) are located. Here the harvests as compared with 1939 increased 35 and 127 percent, or 47 and 8 million pounds, respectively.

Although the total rice consumption of the Philippines is approximately 13 percent greater than the prewar (1936-40) period, the population has increased as much as 28 percent. The per capita consumption of rice, therefore, although considerably greater than at the end of World War II, is less than formerly. Other starchy foods, such as corn, tubers, and to a more limited extent, flour, have supplemented the traditional rice diet since the war. Taking into account the plentiful supplies of these commodities in 1950, the domestic rice crop should be sufficient to satisfy domestic food requirements. If the per capita rice consumption were as large as before the war, however, between 100 and 150 million pounds would be imported.

PHILIPPINES: Consumption of milled rice, per
rice consumer, averages 1926-40, annual 1946-50

Year	Net rice supply for food 1/	Population		Per capita rice consumer	
		Total	Rice consuming 2/	Annual	Daily
	Million pounds	Million	Million	Pounds	Ounces
Average:					
1926-30.	2,936	12.5	8.7	334	14.6
1931-35.	2,887	14.0	9.8	292	12.8
1936-40.	3,004	15.7	11.0	270	11.9
1946......	2,445	18.3	12.8	190	8.5
1947......	2,669	18.7	13.1	203	8.8
1948......	2,849	19.2	13.4	212	9.1
1949......	3,232	19.7	13.7	234	10.2
1950 3/...	3,389	20.1	14.1	240	10.6

1/ Eight percent deducted from rough rice crop for seed, feed, and waste, including imports and excluding exports. 2/ Seventy percent of the Philippine population. 3/ Estimated.

Bureau of the Census and Statistics.

Rice imports during 1950 are expected to be sharply less than in 1949. No rice was imported during the first quarter of the year. Towards the latter part of April, a shipment of 7.5 million pounds milled was reported from Thailand. It is probable that all the rice imported into the Philippines in 1950 will originate in that country.

With the dissolution of the International Emergency Food Council in December 1949, the Republic is in an improved position with respect to importing rice. During the war and postwar years, imports were limited by allocations, the greater part of which were assigned to high-priced and distantly-located markets like the United States and South America. With the decontrol of rice trade, the Philippines will now be able to purchase at lower prices from Thailand and Burma.

While trade in rice appears unrestricted as regards import controls, it is understood that the Central Bank is under orders not to sell any dollar exchange for rice importation. However, should a trade agreement presently being negotiated between Thailand and the Philippines be concluded this year, rice imports may be made on a barter basis.

Rice Distribution by NARIC during the first three months of 1950 totaled 22 million pounds, or almost 7 million more than during the same period a year earlier. This heavier distribution at a time when a record rice crop was being harvested is believed to be largely attributable to the substantial difference between the NARIC prices and those of the trade. In late January 1950, NARIC was selling imported rice (United States) for as low as 8 cents a pound as against 11 cents in the open market. Moreover, with money definitely tighter this year, notwithstanding a preference for domestic varieties, consumers have turned to imported rice which is poorer in quality. Indications are that NARIC distribution will be lighter during the current quarter owing to the decline in the prices of domestic rice in the open market. Presently native rice varieties will sell at only about 1 cent per pound higher than the lowest grade of NARIC rice, and the difference is more than offset by the better eating qualities of the native product.

PHILIPPINES: Milled rice imports by countries of origin, average 1935-39, annual 1946-49

Country	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948	1949
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	1/	182	217	0	126
Burma	0	0	0	9	43
Chile	0	3	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	18	20	51	41
Egypt	0	0	0	16	24
Indochina	76	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	0	0	0	22	0
Mexico	0	0	0	22	0
Thailand	36	109	39	145	87
Other countries	5	1	0	0	0
Total	117	313	2/ 276	265	321

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 2/ Of this volume, 128 million pounds were reexported to Netherlands Indies, Malaya, Korea, and Okinawa, leaving a balance of 148 million pounds.

Compiled from Bureau of the Census and Statistics and data of NARIC.

Domestic rice prices during 1949 and early 1950 have been relatively low and well stabilized. This favorable price situation has been due principally to three factors: abundant stocks of imported rice, favorable rice harvests and adequate supplies of other foodstuffs. Current retail prices of clean rice being marketed by NARIC in late April were from 8 cents for American and Burmese rice to 14 cents for first-class native varieties (Elon-elon and Wag-wag No. 2). These prices are the lowest since liberation and were not established until late in November 1949. Current prices in the open market also are appreciably lower than during the preceding year with clean rice of the Macan first-class selling in May at from $7.49 to $7.90 per 100 pounds as compared with $9.11 to $9.72 in January, and around $11.00 per 100 pounds a year earlier.

Current price levels may not be maintained for the remainder of the year, however, as a steady although slight increase is likely to occur during the coming months. Nevertheless, considering the unusually good harvest of rice and other food crops plus the favorable importing position, prices during 1950 should be generally lower and better stabilized than in other postwar years.

PHILIPPINES: Rice prices, per 100 pounds,
May 1950, with comparisons

Date	Native Macan milled ex-warehouse Manila		Imported	Rough rice delivered Cabanatuan
	No. 1	No. 2		
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1949-First Quarter				
January-March-High.	11.34	11.14	13.21	6.70
January-March-Low..	10.77	10.53	11.43	6.70
1950				
January-High........	9.72	9.52	1/ 7.49	5.24
January-Low.........	9.11	8.91	1/ 7.49	4.64
February-High.......	9.31	9.11	1/ 7.49	5.04
February-Low........	9.11	8.91	1/ 7.49	4.94
March-High..........	9.31	9.11	1/ 7.49	5.04
March-Low...........	7.69	7.49	1/ 7.49	4.54
April-High..........	7.90	7.69	1/ 7.49	4.89
April-Low...........	7.61	6.16	1/ 7.49	4.79
May-High............	7.90	7.69	1/ 7.49	4.74
May-Low.............	7.49	7.29	1/ 7.49	4.54

1/ American.

Daily Market Report, Bureau of Commerce, Philippine Government.

Outlook.--The Philippine rice situation appears to be the most favorable yet attained in postwar years. In view of the record rice harvest, the favorable importing position of the country, and the ample supplies of other foodstuffs, no real deficiency in supply is expected to develop during the year. With NARIC holding a relatively strong stock position, there is reason to believe that the appearance of an artificial shortage can be checked. Although the present low price levels are not expected to be maintained in the coming months, prices are expected to be generally lower this year than during 1949.

Rice production is definitely on an upward trend. In spite of the fact that the rehabilitation of the industry has proceeded at a relatively fast pace, nonetheless rice output has not yet caught up with the former per capita consumption, due to an increase in population. Continued progress is assured, with the government now showing a greater interest in the industry as manifested by the organization of the Rice and Corn Administration, the expansion of irrigation facilities, the creation of the projected fertilizer fund, and the maintenance of relatively high price levels for the benefit of producers.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 9-50 June 15, 1950

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RICE PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND PROCESSING

INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION
Second Session
February 6-12, 1950
Rangoon, Burma

Released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
of the United Nations

The Commission, at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1949, decided upon projects to be undertaken during the ensuing year, and made certain recommendations to member governments. The actions taken on each of those projects, or as a result of each recommendation to governments, was discussed during the second meeting of the Commission, and decisions were taken concerning further work to be undertaken. The results of actions taken, and decisions made are summarized below.

Report of the First Meeting of the Rice Breeders Working Party

The Rice Breeders Working Party was set up following the recommendation of the first meeting of the Commission and it held its first meeting in Rangoon, Burma, on February 1-4, 1950. Dr. K. Ramiah, Director of the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack, Orissa, India, was elected Chairman, and Dr. L. E. Kirk, Chief of the Plant Industry Branch of the Agriculture Division of FAO, served as Technical Secretary. The following specialists participated in the meeting:

U Ba Thein, Senior Economic Botanist,
Department of Agriculture,
Rangoon, Burma

U San Pe, Assistant Economic Botanist,
Mandalay, Burma

Dr. M. F. Chandraratna, Botanist and Senior Agricultural Research Officer,
Peradeniya, Ceylon

Mr. Y. P. Coyaud, Chief Agricultural Engineer,
Rice Office,
Saigon, Indo-China

Dr. J. G. J. Van der Meulen, Lecturer,
Faculty of Agricultural Science,
University of Indonesia and
Adviser to the Central Agricultural Research Station,
Bogor, Indonesia

Mr. Sukardi Tjitropratjitno,
Member of Food Board,
Djakarta, Indonesia

Dr. Phit Panyalakshana, Plant Breeder,
Department of Agriculture,
Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. R. B. Jagoe, Senior Botanist,
Department of Agriculture,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaya

Dr. Jenkin W. Jones, Principal Agronomist in Charge
of Rice Investigations,
United States Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Mr. Graham S. Quate, Agricultural Attache,
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok.

Dr. T. Morinaga, Director,
National Agricultural Experiment Station,
Nishigahara, Kitaku, Tokyo (SCAP)

Dr. Hidetoshi Isobe, Director,
Agricultural Improvement Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo (SCAP)

This Committee dealt with various aspects of the improvement of rice through breeding and a summary of the general discussions is presented below.

General Discussion

The primary aim of improvement in rice by selection and breeding is increased yield. In Asia and the Far East, apart from the poor fertility conditions under which rice is generally grown, low yields are almost invariably due to limitations of the varieties themselves. The relative importance of these adverse factors is different in the different countries and under different conditions in the same country. These limiting factors, as might be expected, were too numerous for attention by the Working Party but those of most importance were considered and are listed as follows:

1. Susceptibility to plant diseases.
2. Susceptibility to attack by insects.
3. Late maturity.
4. Lodging.

5. Shattering of the grain.
6. Lack of tolerance to saline soils.
7. Lack of tolerance to flooding and drought.
8. Narrow range of adaption.

In addition to the above, the discussions emphasized the importance, in any breeding program, of:

9. Milling and cooking quality.
10. High nutritive values.

With regard to each of the above varietal characters, certain significant facts emerged from the discussions of the Working Party. These may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. The most important diseases affecting the rice crop are
   (a) Sesame (Brown) spot (Helminthosporium oryzae);
   (b) Blast (Piricularia oryzae);
   (c) Bacterial leaf blight (Bacterium oryzae);
   (d) Seedling blight (Fusarium Spp. and Sclerotium rolfsii).

The first three are important over wide areas. Piricularia is very prevalent in Japan where losses are estimated from 10 to 20 or more percent in affected areas. Piricularia and Helminthosporium are the most important diseases of rice in India, the latter causing losses up to 80 percent in years when it occurs under epidemic conditions. India has obtained strains resistant to Piricularia by hybridization and the technique of such breeding has been perfected. India is actively working also on the problem of Helminthosporium in rice, and has developed methods of testing for resistance to both these diseases. The prevalence ofPiricularia in Japan is thought to be related to the relatively high rates of fertility with nitrogenous material and the relatively low temperatures, which suggest that this disease may become more serious in other countries as the use of fertilizers increases. Conversely, it is very probable that the non-use of nitrogenous fertilizers may be largely responsible for the fact that Piricularia, and perhaps some other diseases, are not regarded as important yield-limiting factors in Burma, Thailand, Ceylon and Indonesia.

2. The insects of greatest importance which attack rice are
   (a) the stem borer (Schoenobius incertellus)
   (Scirpophaga innotata)
   (Chilo oryzae)
   (Chilo simplex);
   (b) rice bug (Leptocorisa acuta);
   (c) army worm (Cirphis unipuncta);
   (d) rice hispa (Hispa armigera);
   (e) gall fly (Pachydiplosis oryzae);
   (f) swarming caterpillar (Spodoptera mauritia).

The stem borers cause enormous losses in rice, especially in South China where the infestation is very severe in most years. There is some indication that resistant stocks have been found but the effort to find material for breeding purposes should be undertaken on a scale much more comprehensive than has yet been done. Virtually nothing has been done commensurate with the problem to investigate the entomological or breeding aspects of insect control in rice varieties. There are possibilities of developing methods of biological control.

3. Early maturity in rice varieties is important for several reasons. In many cases earlier maturing varieties would make it possible to grow two crops per season instead of one. Early varieties require less water. They tend also to be shorter strawed and produce less vegetative growth making them better adapted to mechanized farming. There is no evidence to suggest a genetic correlation between late maturity and high yield. On the contrary, some of the earlier maturing varieties are among the heavier yielders. This has been amply demonstrated in Japan. This is not to deprecate the value of later maturing varieties where the latter are more useful and better adapted.

4. Resistance to lodging. Lodging in rice varieties is frequently encountered in every country, and this problem is aggravated by the use of fertilizers. Shorter and stronger strawed varieties are urgently needed and can be obtained by breeding. Such varieties are essential also where rice growing is mechanized.

5. Resistance to shattering. Varieties which shatter readily are much too common. Since non-shattering varieties can be secured by breeding without much difficulty, special attention should be given to this problem.

6. Tolerance to saline soils. There is evidence that this is a heritable character and can therefore be transmitted by breeding. The prevalence of saline soils in many of the rice growing countries suggests that breeding for tolerance to salinity should be regarded as a problem of considerable importance.

7. Tolerance to flooding and to drought. The statement in regard to tolerance of saline soils is equally applicable to varieties resistant to flooding and to drought.

8. Wider range of adaption. Rice has usually been considered as having a rather narrow range of adaptation. While this may be true of indigenous strains and of most existing varieties, there are now notable examples of varieties with an exceptionally wide range of adaptation. The importance of this fact can scarcely be over-estimated. If the hundreds of varieties and strains which are now grown in a single country could be replaced with one-tenth the number, or perhaps fewer, it would then be much less difficult to initiate pure seed production and distribution policies. It would also enable the breeder to give much more attention to the further improvement of varieties grown on large areas.

9. Milling and cooking quality. This question is of first-rate importance in exporting countries. Wherever exports are involved, the breeder cannot afford to overlook market demand with respect to both quality and general acceptance of the product.

10. Nutritive value. Although suitable criteria for nutritive value in rice are not yet well developed, and correlations between nutritive value and morphological characters have yet to be demonstrated, the problem of breeding for high nutritive value along with desirable agronomic characters should receive continuous study in any breeding program.

The plant breeders of each country are interested in a wide range of rice improvement possibilities, but because their resources are limited each breeder naturally restricts his efforts to those problems that are currently deemed most important. The main objectives at any one time, therefore, will vary from country to country, and this was found to be the situation with members of the Rice Breeders Working Party. Nevertheless, with respect to several of the yield-limiting factors listed above, there was general agreement as to the importance which they have for most of the countries in South and East Asia. There was general agreement also that much greater progress could be made toward the solution of some of the major plant breeding problems if the stations in each country were sufficiently staffed and equipped to enable them to participate in projects especially designed for a cooperative attack on certain of these major problems. One such project has been recommended by the Working Party.

Recommendations

As a result of the general discussion summarized above, the following recommendations were prepared and unanimously approved by the members of the Rice Breeders Working Party:

1. That all countries participating in the rice improvement program should permit the seed of rice varieties and of breeding materials to be exchanged freely between plant breeders in the several countries and should facilitate such exchange of seed as much as possible.

2. That the plant breeders in each of the participating countries should continue to cooperate with FAO in a further development of the World Catalogue of Genetic Stocks for rice.

3. That India, Indonesia, and Japan be requested to designate one center in their respective countries for the maintenance of genetic stocks of rice as a service to plant breeders.

4. That each country which has not already done so should collect, as time and facilities permit, the seed of indigenous varieties of rice, including wild forms from different habitats, and grow them under observation in nurseries for 2 to 3 years as a means of securing valuable genetic characters for future use in breeding projects. Such material and races which show promise of exceptional value should be listed in the World Catalogue of Genetic Stocks and samples of seed supplied to those stations where collections of genetic stocks are being maintained.

5. That a comprehensive project of hybridization and selection with varieties of the Indica and Japonica groups of rice be undertaken jointly by the plant breeding stations of all participating countries as a promising means of securing varieties combining the most valuable qualities which are

characteristic of each group. This project involves extensive crossing of the two groups, the Indica and Japonica parents being chosen with reference to the special requirements of the participating countries. Because of lack of facilities at several stations, it would not be possible to initiate this project at the present time unless the hybridization work is largely undertaken at one station. This station would also grow the F1 hybrids and distribute the F2 seed to the other participating stations. Such a procedure has other advantages including considerable economy. The second generation seed (the basic material for selection) would not be available for at least two years so that participating stations would not be taxed unduly until they are better able to undertake the work of selection. The project does involve, however, considerable effort on the part of the station which undertakes to make the necessary crosses and for this reason additional personnel and facilities would have to be provided.

6. That FAO be requested by the Rice Commission to arrange for technical courses of several months duration to provide advanced training for technical workers in rice breeding, preferably in cooperation with a member government, and that scholarships or fellowships if possible be granted when necessary to enable qualified students and technical workers to take these courses. That FAO should award grants of travelling fellowships where found necessary to deserving young men engaged in rice research to visit centers of work in countries of the same region where similar work is in progress.

7. That the activities of plant breeding stations which are urgently in need of technical assistance and laboratory equipment from outside sources, be strengthened by making available to them for limited periods the services of highly qualified plant breeders or investigators in cognate sciences, and that Governments be urged to supply such stations with much needed equipment. Certain types of equipment are essential in the conduct of plant breeding investigations, but the equipment required is not elaborate and is relatively less expensive compared with what is required in physical and chemical laboratories.

The Working Party desires to state with special emphasis that little or no progress in plant breeding can be expected unless the staff members engaged in this work are permitted to devote full time to plant breeding investigations. Multiple duties of the technical personnel responsible for plant breeding are regarded by the Working Party as one of the main reasons for lack of progress in several of the stations in participating countries.

8. That the Working Party be continued as an active organization for rice breeding in member countries, and that its efforts be made as effective as possible by

(a) including in the membership one or more specialists in cognate sciences;

(b) provision for frequent meetings (at least once a year) to provide opportunities for consideration of the results of current investigations, the exchange of information, and the planning of new work. Experience indicates that frequent opportunities for collaboration, is not only desirable but essential for the conduct and effective prosecution of scientific investigations;

(c) inviting a limited number of specialists to address the plant breeding Working Party at its regular meetings, as a means of bringing to the group the most up-to-date information on breeding techniques and other pertinent topics;

(d) providing opportunities whenever possible for junior men who are actively engaged in rice breeding to attend meetings of the Working Party.

9. That FAO be requested

(a) to continue the World Catalogue of Genetic Stocks of rice;

(b) to make available to plant breeders, as far as possible, all literature on rice improvement and related subjects;

(c) to make available the full-time services of an experienced plant breeder to assist and coordinate the comprehensive rice improvement program outlined above.

The Commission, having considered and adopted the above recommendations, gave attention to methods by which support could be obtained to put the program into effect, and particularly those aspects requiring assistance from outside a participating country. It was suggested that an inter-country project could appropriately be assisted under the proposed Expanded Technical Assistance Program, and that all governments should be prepared to participate in such a cooperative undertaking. Certain delegates stated that their governments are not prepared to agree at this time to the making of contributions to a special fund to implement this program but, in view of the importance of the project and since the costs involved for the first year or two are likely to be modest, the Commission recommends that all member governments should consider the draft scheme for hybridization work without delay and offer financial contributions to the extent of their ability before the end of May 1950. Also, that the Government of India be requested to make available the facilities of the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack for this work. Contributed funds would be administered in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution of the Rice Commission and of Rule XIV 6 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Commission took note with appreciation of the invitation extended by the delegate from Indonesia that the next meeting of the plant breeders Working Party and the first meeting of the Fertilizer Working Party might be held at Bogor (Buitenzorg), Indonesia, in 1951. The second half of March was suggested by the delegate from Indonesia as the most desirable time for these meetings.

The Commission recommended that the next meeting of the Rice Breeders Working Party be held early in 1951, the exact time and place to be determined by the Director General of FAO.

Promoting the Use of Improved Seed

The terms of reference of the Rice Breeders Working Party included the consideration of seed multiplication and distribution. A special session of the Working Party was held to discuss this problem following the conclusion of its deliberations on other rice breeding problems. This discussion and the recommendations which arose out of it, and which were adopted by the Commission, are summarized below.

General Discussion

The purpose of a crop improvement program by selection and breeding is a development of better adapted and higher yielding varieties, but unless the seeds of improved varieties are extensively used in farm practice the work involved in selection and breeding is wasted effort. It is obviously of greatest importance that valuable results in crop improvement shall not be lost because of failure to capitalize on what has been achieved by research in plant breeding. While the plan adopted by different countries will vary necessarily in details, the experience of those countries which have developed successive schemes indicates that certain features are essential to any workable plan. The most successful seed production and distribution policies have included the following provisions:

1. That reserve stocks of foundation seed of improved varieties be maintained at stations where facilities for scientific supervision exist.

2. That provision be made by the governments, or through Seed Associations, for the multiplication of the improved seed in adequate quantities to satisfy the demand. The seed should be grown on Government seed farms or by reputable and experienced growers.

3. That provision be made for field crop inspection and inspection of the harvested seed in the sack, to ensure a satisfactory degree of purity and quality.

4. That regulations be established for certification of the seed with respect to varietal purity, quality for seed purposes, germination and freedom from recognizable diseases, in order to ensure reliability of the product. It is desirable that certified seed be sealed in the sack.

5. If the seed is produced by private growers, that provision be made by the Government or Seed Association to finance the purchase of such seed at a premium over the price of commercial seed, and also to provide storage for the seed until it is required by the farmer.

6. That special measures be taken to induce farmers to use improved seed by

   (a) extensive comparative tests of varieties throughout the country to demonstrate the value of good seed of improved varieties, and

   (b) making it possible for farmers to secure a supply of improved seed with a minimum of inconvenience and expense.

Recommendations

1. That member governments, either directly or through government sponsored or approved Seed Associations, initiate, promote, and support an improved seed production and distribution plan to ensure

   (a) An adequate supply of pure seed of the best existing varieties, and

   (b) Adopt effective means of inducing farmers to use improved seed in substantial quantities.

2. That consideration be given by member governments in the development of seed production and distribution plans and policies, to the applicability and adoption of those features outlined above which have been so successfully applied in several countries.

3. That members of the Working Party be requested to supply FAO with an outline of such systems of seed multiplication and distribution currently in use in their respective countries and that FAO supply mimeographed copies of these statements to all members of the Working Party.

Pests and Diseases of Rice

The Commission at its first meeting recommended the study of several subjects related to the control of rice pests and diseases. These included the preparation of a note on seed disinfection as a means of reducing seed-borne diseases, the preparation of a review on recent developments in the control of rice stem borers, the assembling from member countries information concerning pests that are of economic importance, and on varieties available in each country that are resistant to stem borers, blast (Piricularia), or other pests and diseases. Limited information was supplied by certain governments on these subjects and summaries of that information were before the Commission for consideration. After discussion of the various aspects of problems of pest and disease control it was agreed that

(1) A resume be prepared of the present position of knowledge concerning major diseases affecting the rice crop as follows:

   (a) Sesame (Brown) spot (Helminthosporium oryzae);
   (b) Blast (Piricularia oryzae);
   (c) Bacteria leaf blight (Bacterium oryzae);
   (d) Seedling blight (Fusarium Spp., and Sclerotium rolfsii); and
   (e) Nematode diseases.

It was agreed that, in preparing this resume, FAO should consult the Commonwealth Bureaus of Mycology and Helminthology. The resume is to be made available to member governments of the Commission when ready for distribution and will be discussed at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

(2) The collecting of material concerning important insects attacking the rice crop should be continued with emphasis on the following:

(a) The stem borors (Schoenobius incertellus)
(Scirpophaga innotata)
(Chilo oryzae)
(Chilo simplex);
(b) rice bug (Leptocorisa acuta);
(c) army bug (Cirphis unipuncta);
(d) rice hispa (Hispa armigera);
(e) gall fly (Pachydiplosis oryzae); and
(f) swarming caterpillar (Spodoptera mauritia).

In addition to material of the type requested in questionnaires sent to governments during 1949, it was agreed that information should also be assembled on the methods of estimating losses from large scale insect attacks. It was further agreed that during the coming year, countries should give particular attention to the locating of varieties and types showing resistance to stem borers and that any such varieties should be carefully propagated and tested.

In connection with the discussion on pests and diseases, the Viet Namese adviser to the French Union delegation presented some information concerning damage to rice fields by fish in Viet Nam. It was reported that a type of fish (Gobioides anguillaris) makes tunnels through the bunds of rice fields in the process of migrating from lower to higher fields and this, in many cases, resulted in draining of the fields and hence severe damage to the rice crops. It was reported that finely chopped leaves of a tree (Milletia ichthyochtona) could be placed in the water and a substance contained in the leaves kills the fish. A small amount of an extract (piscidine) of the nut of this tree, placed in the water of a rice field, is even more effective in killing the fish. The dead fish, bloated from accumulation of gas, stop up the tunnels and help prevent further loss of water from fields. It was reported that this lethal substance also killed crabs. In this connection, the delegate from the United States of America pointed out that ten pounds per acre of copper sulphate had been found effective in killing shrimps which invaded rice fields in California, and he suggested that this might be tested as a means of killing the fish in question.

Fertilizer Investigations and Practices

The Commission heard a review of the work being undertaken in this field by FAO which included the publication in recent months of a comprehensive document dealing with "Efficient Use of Fertilizers" and a second document concerning "Fertilizer Manufacturing Projects - Their Planning and Financing." The Commission was also advised of FAO's current work on a manuscript dealing with soil fertility practices which will be a sequel to the document on "Efficient Use of Fertilizers." The soil fertility specialist of FAO's Agriculture Division will give special attention to soil fertility problems in the rice-producing countries during 1950. Following consideration of various important aspects of fertilizer use, the Commission agreed that there should be set up a Working Party on Fertilizers. It was agreed, further, that this Working Party should give particular attention to problems such as:

(a) the combinations of organic and inorganic fertilizers which are most effective in increasing rice production;

(b) the effects of single and continued applications of ammonium sulphate and ammonium phosphate and other fertilizers on soils of various types;

(c) the possibilities of using minor elements as a means of increasing yields, particularly in areas where fertilizers are already being used extensively;

(d) the type of field tests which should be carried out as a means of confirming experimental results before making recommendations to farmers;

(e) the relation between cost of fertilizers and increases in rice production resulting from their application; and

(f) the reactions of varieties of rice to fertilizer treatments and the necessity of finding varieties which can give maximum response at different levels of fertility.

The Commission recommended that the first meeting of the Working Party be held early in 1951, the exact time and place being decided by the Director General of FAO.

It was suggested that a joint meeting might be desirable between the Working Party on Fertilizers and the Rice Breeders Working Party, on occasions when they are meeting concurrently, at which problems of common interest should be considered.

Attention was also given to the problem of treating seed with chemical solutions, for example, phosphate solution, as a possible means of increasing production. Papers on this subject had been submitted to the Commission by India and Burma, and Ceylon reported that a similar paper was in process of publication. Ceylon agreed to make copies of their paper available to the members of the Commission.

General Conditions of Rice Production in Various Countries

Relatively little information had been supplied by governments in response to the questionnaire on this point sent out during 1949. Even this limited material had been received only shortly before the meeting and the delegation from India, which had agreed at the first meeting of the Commission to prepare a summary of this material, had not been able to make any progress. It was agreed that as further material was received, an Indian specialist should prepare a summary and have it available for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

Forage Crops for Livestock Feed and Green Manure

The Commission noted the limited material which had been supplied by countries on this subject and heard a statement on the work being undertaken by FAO to catalogue information on legumes which are adapted to tropical and sub-tropical conditions. It was agreed that this was a problem of major importance to which all countries should give attention and to which FAO should be urged to devote as much attention as its budget and available personnel permit. No special action by the Commission was proposed at this time.

Crop Rotations for Upland Rice

The Commission noted the limited material which had been supplied by a few countries on this subject and agreed that no further action was required at the present time.

Pumps and Windmills for Lifting Water for Irrigation

The Commission had agreed at its first meeting that material on this subject in member countries should be submitted. Thailand agreed to summarize this material. No countries had submitted information, hence a report was heard from Thailand only on the work being undertaken in that country with water wheels, the "rahad" or "Chinese dragon wheel" which could be operated either by man-power, motors or windmills, and the "naga boats" which are used for pumping water from rivers to supplement normal irrigation in cases of drought. The delegate from Thailand indicated that his government had assembled some material from other countries and would be glad to prepare a summary of it if desired. It was agreed that such a summary should be prepared in cooperation with an agricultural engineer on the staff of FAO's Agriculture Division.

Availability of Draft Animals for Export

Certain countries asked for information at the first meeting of the Commission concerning possible sources of draft animals. It was reported to the second session of the Commission that draft animals were available from Paraguay but that the costs were too high to make this an economic source for the interested countries in South East Asia. It was also reported that Thailand had recently concluded an agreement for the export of 200 water buffaloes to the Philippine Republic and that in the coming year Thailand might be able to export a larger number of draft animals. The delegate from the French Union stated that water buffaloes are available for export from Cambodia. No further action was taken by the Commission.

Storage of Rice

The Commission heard a summary of the activities which had been undertaken in this field by FAO. These included:

(a) An international meeting in London in the summer of 1947 at which the extent of losses in stored grains and the possible methods of reducing these losses were considered;

(b) A meeting in Italy in the summer of 1948 at which problems of grain storage in Southern Europe were considered and demonstrations given on methods of proper storage and insect control.

(c) A meeting in Colombia early in 1949 at which the problems of grain storage in the Americas, and particularly in tropical and sub-tropical areas, were examined. At this meeting, a Committee was set up consisting of one representative from each of the North, Central and South American countries to implement the recommendations of the meeting in Colombia and promote research on, and the development of, safe grain storage; and

(d) A demonstration project which is being carried out for one year in cooperation with the government of Costa Rica, and a technical meeting which will be held in Costa Rica near the end of this demonstration period, at which representatives of all North, Central and South American countries will have an opportunity of seeing the improved facilities and techniques being used.

In addition to these activities, the Organization has issued a publication on drying and storing grain and has rendered advisory assistance to several countries. Various delegations indicated that the question of reducing loss in stored grains was a major concern to their governments; the government of Pakistan had already requested assistance from FAO in examining its grain storage problems and the delegates from Thailand and Ceylon indicated their interest in receiving similar assistance. The delegate from India expressed a desire to receive information on the methods of storage employed in Japan. The Commission noted the material submitted on this subject in response to the questionnaire circulated in 1949 and agreed that the problem should receive further consideration at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Mechanization of Rice Cultivation

As agreed at the first meeting of the Rice Commission, experimental work on mechanization of rice was carried on during the past year by Thailand and the Philippine Republic. Unfortunately, the Philippine delegate was unable to attend the meetings of Committee A, and, therefore, no report was presented by him. The Member from Thailand, however, presented an interesting report covering experiments conducted in 1948 and 1949. This report concludes, among other things, that the success of mechanization depends to a very large extent on conditions, and particularly on complete control of irrigation water and drainage; also that it is adapted mainly to relatively large farms where the seed is broadcast. The cultivators of relatively large farms in Thailand have found that the cost of production, under favourable conditions, and at prevailing prices, is low enough to yield good returns, and the demand for tractors is increasing. The Chairman of the Commission, however, expressed the view that mechanization of rice cultivation in Thailand as a whole shows little economic advantage because of the small area of most of the holdings, the high overhead expenses, and the foreign exchange involved. This view was endorsed by the other delegates in their respective countries.

Several representatives from other member countries made substantial contributions on the subject of mechanization of rice cultivation based on experience in their respective countries. It was apparent that there exists a lively interest in this problem. The Commission heard statements on the work of FAO in this field having a bearing on the mechanization of rice production. These activities include the preparation of a publication on essential points which must be considered when a mechanization problem is undertaken, and the sending of an agricultural machinery specialist to Asia and the Far East to examine at first hand the problems encountered in mechanizing rice production. FAO is also preparing a publication on hand tools and implements and animal drawn implements which will include an outline of the principles that should be observed in evaluating the efficiency of implements of new design.

The problems involved in the mchanization of rice grown in monsoon areas are far from final solution. While the trials in Thailand have given some information they refer to complete mechanization as in the United States and Australia. Such complete mchanization is however not possible over large areas where transplanting is practiced because no satisfactory transplanting machine has yet been invented. In large compact rice areas as in the river valleys and deltas in Asia, the time available for the preparation of the land does not exceed one to two months and the crop that is seeded or transplanted late does not give satisfactory yields. Under such circumstances the use of tractors for the initial preparation of the land would be desirable and information is needed on the type of machinery suited to such condition. The Commission therefore requests FAO to sponsor under the Technical Assistance Program a comprehensive investigation in one or more member countries of the I.R.C., of the problem of complete and partial mechanization under a variety of soil and climatic conditions. The project should include a test of the use of power machinery (i) in turning in heavy green manure crops that can be grown in the off-season; and (ii) in handling the soil under wet conditions. In these investigations detailed records of costs should be maintained.

Rice Milling and Processing

The Commission was informed that FAO is preparing a publication on small scale equipment for the processing of agricultural products which will include material on small engines for driving such equipment and examples of the kind of equipment that is already available for cleaning of grain, milling, etc.

Utilization of Rice By-Products

The Commission was informed that FAO had sent to all governments a bibliography of publications on this subject. As a fruitful source of information FAO was requested to supply mimeographed copies of an article recently submitted to FAO on the utilization of rice by-products in Japan.

Review of Certain Recommendations

Several recommendations to member governments which were approved at the first session of the Rice Commission were briefly reviewed. Of these the use of hormone weed killers was discussed at some length. It was pointed out by the representative from Italy and others that many of the most harmful weeds in rice belong to the Cyperus family and the Grass family, and while hormone weed killers are partially effective against the former, they are not so against the grasses that occur in rice fields. There was general agreement that hormone week killers are effective in eradicating water hyacinth, but that there are various subsidiary effects that must be taken into account and which require further study.

The Commission was informed that FAO is preparing a publication on hormone weed killers and their use for different purposes under a wide variety of conditions.

Exhibition of Rice Milling and Processing Machinery

A special feature of the meetings of the Rice Commission was an excellent display of rice milling and processing machinery, including an exhibit of small implements and hand tools used in rice cultivation. A few other exhibits relating to methods of rice processing could also be seen. The Exhibition was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Burma on the first day of the meetings, and the Committee on Production, Storage and Processing devoted an additional half day to a detailed study of the exhibits.

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THE RICE MILLING INDUSTRY IN GERMANY 1/

German rice millers are among the pioneers in the industry of rice importation and milling in the modern world. Since its establishment about one hundred years ago, the German rice trade has been almost exclusively in the hands of the rice mills located in Hamburg and Bremen. The most important of these firms, which have accounted for about 90 percent of German rice imports during the last thirty years, are as follows:

A. Luethke & Co., Hamburg.
Hamburger Reismuehle Diekmann & Co., Hamburg.
Neue Allgemeine Reisgesellschaft m.b.H., Hamburg.
Reis-und Handels Aktiengesellschaft, Hamburg and Bremen.
Rudolph Meyerkort, Hamburg and Bremen.

Among the important rice brokerage firms are E. A. Jencquel & Co., and Kreep & Luethke, both of Hamburg.

The rice mills of Germany were able to maintain a strong position in prewar world trade because they established from the beginning their own purchasing offices in the most important rice producing countries such as Burma, Thailand, and Italy, and in the market centers of London, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rumania, Memel, and Poland. They were, therefore, able to keep in continuous close touch with developments in all markets of the world.

According to statements of leading rice millers in Hamburg, there was considerable competition among the German mills before the first World War and during the years following. However, from about 1931 to 1945, when the shortage of foreign exchange became acute, German rice importers began to collaborate with each other under government control in order to make the best use of the limited foreign exchange available for buying rice. It is said that this collaboration for buying purposes took the form of voluntary or gentlemen's agreements and was not based on written contracts. No such understanding existed with regard to selling rice, each firm doing its best to compete in the market by offering its products at the lowest possible prices.

1/ Reported on May 25 and July 14, 1950, by Robert T. Cowan, American Consul General, American Embassy, Hamburg, Germany.

Sources of Supply

The main sources of Germany's rice supply before the second World War were India and Burma, Thailand, French Indochina, Italy, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, and the United States. The substantial volume of imports between the two World Wars is shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3 which have been compiled from figures salvaged from the ruins of Germany's rice mills after the recent war.

Germany's prewar rice consumption ranged from about 400 million to 485 million pounds of brown rice equivalent annually, but total imports greatly exceeded domestic requirement because large quantities of imported rice were trans-shipped to other areas. During 1925, the peak year, well over one billion pounds were imported, mostly in the form of polished rice. In the following years, however, imports of polished rice decreased sharply and after the late 20's the bulk of the imports consisted of unpolished rice under a program to protect the German rice milling industry.

Considerable quantities of broken rice were also imported for the starch mill industry and for brewery purposes. At that time, Germany sold broken rice of a certain type to brewers in the United States to be used for making beer. In various years, more than 200 million pounds of so-called loonzain 2/ were imported for use as animal feed.

German rice imports from the United States were important for several years, particularly during the late 20's and early 30's. During this period, purchases of fully milled rice from the United States averaged about 40 million pounds annually. The peak year for U.S. polished rice was 1921, with nearly 70 million pounds but sales were not significant again until 1928. Sales of unpolished rice have generally been negligible or non-existant in U.S.-Germany trade. In the category of rice mill feeds, German imports from the United States were of considerable volume until they came to a halt in 1933.

Second World War and Postwar Years

During World War II, Germany imported only unmilled rice and it came solely from Italy. After the war, rice imports came to an abrupt end. According to official German foreign trade statistics there were no rice imports in 1946 or 1947 and the only rice imports in 1948 were 24,250 pounds of unpolished and 37,500 pounds of polished rice from Switzerland. This small quantity was imported mainly for the school feeding program sponsored by Military Government. In 1949, after the international rice controls had been lifted insofar as Germany had been allotted an import quota, rice imports began again. In March of last year, German mills jointly purchased about 8 million pounds of raw rice from Italy. This represented the first postwar contract as an individual import. Since then, some 200 million pounds of rough or brown rice

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2/ Loonzain is the name given to raw or brown rice in Thailand and Burma. In French Indochina it is called cargo rice and in Italy Sbramato.

Table 1

GERMANY: Imports of Unpolished Rice, 1913 and 1920-1938

(1,000 pounds)

Country	1913	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
United States..	-	1,759	8,192	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,345	485	1,799	1.274	1,993	7,211	844	-	-	-
India and Burma	340,289	13,049	22,260	54,200	29,109	56,535	93,784	230,738	311,128	328,313	301,435	311,596	565,892	484.743	388,589	385,307	218,053	111,420	243,610	366,424
Thailand.......	7,365	2,965	14,585	6,762	93	-	-	1,852	2,899	4,039	2,610	172	403	14,610	18,102	40,721	9,471	4,663	4,561	35,042
Indonesia......	7,086	1,442	688	1,660	609	-	4,733	2,418	-	2,319	2,050	1,365	4,888	46,499	2,092	2,476	117	75	560	33
Egypt..........	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,816	187	1,206	604	-	805	33	-	-	-	2,178
Italy..........	-	-	-	-	-	-	566	-	-	1,678	1,753	569	833	4,222	10,362	53,261	82,858	133,275	99,119	98,978
French Indochina	-	-	-	187	-	-	-	-	-	1,373	22	-	1,027	5,924	862	95	-	33,106	38,175	28,907
Brazil.........	-	18,102	2,130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	319	9,830	597	-	172	3,684	10,591	-	6,126
Mexico.........	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,599	16,369	13,992	24,700	-
Iran...........	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	571	8,448	18,647	895	-	-	6,312	-	-
Japan..........	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,405	1,140	141	-	-	-	-	-
Other countries....	5,586	2,350	2,544	1,764	1,684	3,331	5,763	523	2,626	2,118	589	1,662	6,449	4,729	3,375	46	1,210	4,094	-	27
Total..	360,326	39,667	50,399	64,573	31,495	59,866	104,846	235,531	316,653	341,656	309.991	317,945	604,578	582,382	427,216	491.921	332,606	317,528	410,743	537,715

Source: Monthly statistics of German Foreign Trade (compiled by Statistical Bureau, Berlin).

Table 2

GERMANY: Imports of Polished Rice, 1913 and 1920-1938

(1,000 pounds)

Country	1913	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
United States..	-	20,941	69,379	6,730	4,572	-	5,124	2,967	16,739	20,644	36,069	35,033	49,074	54,509	28,301	6,041	1,548	13	20	-
India and Burma	475,012	94,310	362,930	266,878	286,450	890,471	952,123	376,014	275,317	104,101	216,236	96,436	89,692	92,935	101,299	51,607	16,922	5,633	10,306	1,305
Thailand.......	116,989	2,306	65,256	55,675	11,676	-	37,412	82,338	90,463	97,908	36,907	17,998	20,770	24,204	35,838	23,228	8,115	9,828	7,987	17,789
Indonesia......	26,669	6,631	10,961	2,701	2,842	-	34,687	28,752	25,404	21,160	24,151	23,880	28,726	21,448	16,091	11,431	8,668	3,829	4,039	474
Italy..........	952	-	8,292	1,746	2,207	-	6,058	6,235	14,434	18,217	12,057	23,497	23,466	17,214	24,894	20,141	11,061	12,874	18,550	17,690
French Indochina	-	6,356	35,368	860	-	-	12,557	16,920	4,687	17,242	3,428	5,040	13,331	17,950	19,791	21,164	15,639	9,288	11,612	2,017
Netherlands....	63,508	6,852	2,705	1,023	353	-	13,953	9,094	9,211	7,762	12,782	15,917	20,104	15,483	10,606	6,817	19,182	12,524	17,277	24,608
Egypt..........	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,638	2,183	2,039	1,620	227	3,439	436	7	-	-	361
Spain..........	-	10,697	6,618	855	-	-	5,525	6,594	1,069	1,380	750	1,687	1,510	520	90	238	831	3,402	-	-
Brazil.........	-	71,740	68,071	14,006	2,160	-	465	-	2,152	-	-	6,592	29,350	7,747	1,063	-	4,976	55	170	44
Belgium........	-	4,996	580	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172	-	152	915	5,238	4,925	5,703
Great Britain..	-	6,023	384	672	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan..........	-	4,339	2,897	417	-	-	963	-	-	-	-	-	11,199	11,268	8,060	121	126	187	44	-
Other countries....	9,436	5,181	4,749	1,625	5,020	72,434	1,557	1,914	1,307	222,268	3,153	4,299	2,710	1,999	884	752	298	108	540	20
Total...	692,566	240,372	638,190	353,287	315,280	962,905	1,070,424	530,828	440,783	514,320	347,716	232,418	291,552	265,676	250,356	142,128	88,288	62,979	75,470	70,011

Source: Monthly statistics of German Foreign Trade (compiled by Statistical Bureau, Berlin).

Table 3

GERMANY: Imports of Rice Mill Feeds, 1913 and 1920-1938

(1,000 pounds)

Country	1913	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
United States	35,895	198	29,185	22,844	4,272	-	3,820	-	11,462	9,376	9,539	1,193	8,558	42,388	12,048	-	-	-	-	-
India and Burma	235,350	27	32,599	94,747	19,028	16,709	82,322	39,727	108,071	74,121	49,436	28,360	81,802	126,881	23,865	8,265	860	5,434	-	-
Italy	54,888	53,115	33,067	24,336	11,598	20,408	30,858	21,096	74,864	48,819	21,612	16,801	36,548	15,014	2,767	-	2	657	4,173	525
French Indochina	55,512	-	4,334	7,421	9,998	-	-	-	7,310	36,731	3,928	-		855	20,714	1,347	1,280	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,252	10,586	7,679	3,307	13,904	14,012	963	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,324	7,732	126		3,232	25,053	14,493	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,662	-	5,807	3,022	1,598	6,069	21,953	4,597	-	207	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,747	-	844	366	276	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rumania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,131	4,004	5,044	2,559	5,258	1,105	428	190	-	-	-
Netherlands	25,007	-	207	-	-	-	-	9,237	8,902	3,516	2,720	3,995	24,315	15,565	8,355	-	2,403	2,829	3,395	-
Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,470	2,989	1,881	7,513	4,458	1,554	-	-	-	-	-
Austria Hungary1/	17,110	523	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,077	1,629	1,616	1,292	833	265	-	-	-	-	-
Brasil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	646	1,911	1,045	278	-	-	-	-	-
Other Countries	31,433	4,810	8,146	4,233	430	2,513	6,380	12,595	12,910	10,275	3,856	3,324	3,599	6,863	3,482	1,129	699	765	-	-
Total	459,195	58,673	107,560	153,581	45,326	39,630	123,380	86,317	239,095	221,388	110,602	69,189	196,866	305,824	75,119	11,102	4,361	9,685	7,568	525

1/ 1929 through 1938 Hungary only.

Source: Monthly Statistics of German Foreign Trade (compiled by Statistical Bureau, Berlin).

are reported to have been purchased by Germany. According to the Chairman of the Rice Millers Association for Germany, rice purchased from one country by Hamburg and Bremen trading firms, amounting to about 18 million pounds, has caused considerable difficulties. German importing firms not familiar with the intricacies of rice shipping are said to have been badly served by their sellers and to have lost considerable money in this transaction as a result of deterioration of the rice during shipment.

Table 4 below shows imports of unpolished and polished rice into Western Germany in 1949.

Table 4 - GERMANY: Rice Imports, 1949 1/

(1,000 pounds)

Country of origin	Unpolished rice	Polished rice
Italy	81,171	728
Egypt	15,154	110
Surinam & Dutch Guiana	2,813	445
Indonesia	1,314	373
Belgian Congo	1,001	-
United States	-	110
Netherlands	-	1,186
Brazil	-	62
Thailand	-	55
Switzerland	-	7
Other countries	5	24
Total	101,458	3,100

1/ There is no record of any imports of rice mill feeds in 1949.

Source: Official Foreign Trade Statistics, Germany.

Present Consumption and Imports

Consumption of rice in Western Germany at present is estimated to be between 250 million and 330 million pounds, depending on the price to consumers. Although rice is now priced rather high in comparison with other prepared food products (Naehrmittel), it is believed that if the price situation should become more favorable, a higher consumption would result.

Rice imports continue to increase. From January through May 1950 about 18 million pounds are reported to have been imported from Egypt, as well as some 4 million pounds from the Belgian Congo, and some 6.5 million pounds from Surinam. Approximately 2 million pounds of broken rice are at present scheduled for import from Italy. Additional purchases of about 20 million pounds from Italy and 27 million pounds from Egypt are said to have been made and further contracts are pending. On the basis of current negotiations with

South American countries, imports from Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Mexico are to be expected. The main prewar suppliers of Germany—Burma and Thailand—are not in a position to provide rice for Germany at present.

Officials of the Federal Bureau of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry estimate that present (May 1950) stocks of rice in West Germany are about 22 million pounds and that shipments expected shortly from Italy and Egypt will increase this figure to over 33 million pounds.

Imports of rice into Western Germany are at present subject to the following tariff rates 3/

Brown rice		
	DM 1.50	per 100 kilos (.16 cent per pound)
	DM .315	turnover compensation tax per 100 kilos (.03 cent per pound)
	DM .10	statistical fees per 100 kilos (.01 cent per pound)
Total	DM 1.915	per 100 kilos (.20 cent per pound)
White rice		
	DM 2.50	per 100 kilos (.27 cent per pound)
	DM .525	turnover compensation tax per 100 kilos (.06 cent per pound)
	DM .10	statistical fees per 100 kilos (.01 cent per pound)
Total	DM 3.125	per 100 kilos (.34 cent per pound)

New tariff rates are now (May 1950) being prepared by the Federal Republic in consultation with rice circles aiming at the introduction of adequate rates for the maintenance of the German rice milling industry. It is reported that the import compensation tax of DM 10.00 per 100 kilos (1.1 cents per pound) which is levied at present on fully milled rice will be discontinued as of July 1, 1950. Rice firms fear that the industry will suffer during the interval of several months that will elapse before the new tariff rates go into effect.

Present Conditions in German Rice Industry

With the exception of one small mill, all of Germany's rice mills were more or less completely destroyed by bombing during World War II and have been rebuilt since then. The present capacity of the German mills is about 2 million pounds per day and about 1,000 persons are employed, roughly half the prewar number. One of the largest mills, located in Hamburg, had a prewar capacity of over 2 million pounds per day. It was completely bombed out in 1943 and has been rebuilt within the past year until it now has a capacity of some 650,000 pounds per day. About 250 persons are employed. The Federal Republic, and the Allied Governments as well, apparently favor the importation of brown or raw rice to insure continued operations and employment in German rice mills.

3/ The official rate of exchange for one Deutsche Mark (DM) was fixed at 30 cents U.S. from June 20, 1948 to September 19, 1949; with the devaluation on the latter date, the official rate was lowered to 23.8 cents U.S.

According to a leading Hamburg mill owner, the present financial position of the German mills can be considered as sound on the whole, although prewar debts in foreign exchange are still in abeyance. The same authority, who is also the Chairman of the Rice Advisory Board to the Federal Republic, explained what steps the Hamburg rice millers had taken to show their good faith to London creditors. He stated that purchases of rice up to 1939 were effected on a three months' sight basis through London bankers. The outbreak of the war interrupted transactions in the amount of about 500,000 pounds sterling, against which the mills were able to give securities up to the time of the monetary reform in Western Germany. As rice stocks diminished during the war, corresponding accounts in marks were held by the mills to cover their London obligations. After the arrival of British troops in Hamburg, the acting Finance Officer was requested to safeguard the rice stocks of about 40 million pounds which were being held as security for London debts. Unfortunately, however, this could not be done and the rice was distributed to the population without the mills receiving full remuneration. The marks held by German mills to cover London debts were said to have been reduced by 94 percent at the time of the currency reform. German rice millers hope that a future peace treaty with Germany will make the German Government responsible for settlement of these debts, as was the case after the first World War. Although they believe the present financial status of their mills to be sound, German rice firms would welcome investment of United States capital when the time seems appropriate.

Problems and Future Prospects

Present purchases are made largely within the framework of trade agreements, with most rice imports coming from the countries of the Mediterranean. With the exception of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway, and Denmark—countries with which trade has been liberalized—German imports are centralized through the Federal Bureau of Food, Agriculture and Forestry. Although it is reported that liberalization will become general in the near future, German rice firms consider themselves handicapped under present political conditions. As long as liberalization does not mean that German millers have the same basis as their foreign competitors regarding foreign exchange, money transfer, travelling, and setting up their own offices in the rice producing countries, they feel that they should be entitled to certain protection.

German millers claim they are faced with the competition of milled rice which has been purchased with pounds sterling and shipped into Germany under the trade agreement program. They say that they cannot compete against this sort of competition as they cannot purchase rice in, say, Thailand, except by barter, a tedious process which costs 6 or 7 percent more than a straightforward purchase. Should German mills have some guarantee that purchases of Thailand rice could be sold profitably, a trade agreement could be negotiated with Thailand enabling Germany to export manufactured goods to Thailand in return for rice. German mills would then be insured against unemployment. It should be understood that the foregoing remarks represent the views of the German rice millers.

German rice circles are inclined to be somewhat critical of the Federal Republic's economic measures although they profess to agree with its goal of liberalized trade. They believe it doubtful that some countries can fulfill their obligations to purchase several million dollars worth of German goods. They believe further that the German food industry as a whole has been put under a severe strain by the trade agreement program.

German Desire for American Rice

Rice millers in Western Germany are extremely desirous of once again importing rice from the United States. Recalling the popularity of American rice in the German market in the years before the war, they have been very much interested in the possibility of receiving a part of the rice purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the Support Program. They say that they have ascertained from the German government authorities that rice will be added to the list of goods which may be imported under the Support Program. One Hamburg mill, interested in purchasing American brown rice, has been in touch with a New York rice importer and has approached the Department of Agriculture in this regard. However, because of Germany's dollar shortage and large commitments for rice under trade agreements, no German licenses have been granted for U.S. rice.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 11-50 October 16, 1950

WORLD RICE TRADE SHOWS MODERATE GAIN IN 1949

International trade in rice during 1949 increased about 5 percent over the preceding year, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The volume of shipments, however, was only approximately 45 percent of the prewar (1936-40) trade, largely as a result of decreased production and unsettled conditions in Burma and Indochina, formerly the world's principal sources of supply. Total exports, including reexports, are estimated at around 9,100 million pounds in terms of milled rice compared with 8,700 million a year earlier, and an average of 20,000 million pounds during the prewar period.

By continents total exports increased in Asia, Europe, and North America in 1949, but declined in Africa and South America. Exports exceeded imports in the Western Hemisphere and Africa.

The surplus countries of Asia shipped around 6,400 million pounds in terms of milled rice compared with 6,100 million in the year before. Exports from Thailand increased substantially as a result of recovery to prewar levels of production, and reached 92 percent of the 1936-40 average. On the other hand, shipments from Burma and Indochina - the other principal exporting countries - were 40 and 7 percent of prewar, respectively.

Although rice trade in the European countries showed a marked gain over the preceding year, it was only a fraction of prewar. Shipments, including exports of surplus areas and reexports of countries normally exporting the remilled product, were approximately one-half of prewar. On the other hand, imports of nearly 600 million pounds were only about 20 percent of the prewar average.

Rice exports from Italy, Europe's surplus country, approached the prewar average, rising sharply from the preceding year. Nearly 350 million pounds were exported as against approximately 45 million in the year before. These shipments were directed primarily to the countries of Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

A moderate reduction occurred in the exports from Egypt, the major exporting country of Africa, and shipments from Tanganyika declined. Exports were larger in the relatively smaller sources of supply, Angola and Belgian Congo. Australian shipments, mainly to areas in the South Pacific, were maintained at nearly the same level as in 1947-48.

RICE (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1936-40, annual 1947-49

Continent and country	Average 1936-40		1947		1948 1/		1949 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA								
British Honduras	-	2,764	-	2,497	-	2,627	-	1,760
Canada	2,525	50,958	6	38,441	5	39,286	14	50,129
Costa Rica	0	2,053	1	24	1,100	736	0	3,782
El Salvador	2,641	3	8,012	132	4,127	55	5,322	0
Guatemala	2/	75	1,135	2	259	1	2,041	2/
Honduras 3/	1	2,591	4,856	37	3,187	30	150	-
Mexico	18,555	347	22,090	4,460	63,049	42	90,869	-
Nicaragua	150	518	8,023	-	8,067	1	21,361	-
Panama	-	13,398	-	14,768	15	11,212	-	165
United States	235,206	20,534	963,002	610	868,565	2,845	1,136,904	4,168
Bahamas	-	3,809	-	1,669	-	-	-	-
Barbados	-	20,675	-	13,432	-	5,544	-	-
Cuba	60	444,612	1	620,639	-	517,715	-	598,386
Dominican Republic	165	7,989	1	8,167	506	511	2,030	201
Guadeloupe	-	15,467	-	10,040	-	12,801	-	-
Haiti 4/	1	2,359	1,544	2/	219	826	2/	1,213
Jamaica	-	41,798	-	11,521	-	-	-	16,607
Martinique	-	6,508	-	7,013	-	3,509	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	42,376	-	21,959	-	27,229	-	30,529
Total 5/	259,775	690,821	1,008,671	766,175	949,107	658,352	1,258,691	745,325
EUROPE								
Austria	6/ 5	6/ 62,366	0	1,127	-	7,596	-	32,793
Belgium	29,249	140,798	18	36,251	2,491	21,493	326	60,743
Czechoslovakia	3	84,898	0	4,590	-	-	-	-
Denmark	45	19,082	0	5	0	2,159	7	2,880
Eire	0	7,909	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	0	31,723	0	4	0	44	-	-
France	31,120	1,239,561	136	24,778	14	75,733	47	93,880
Germany	38,288	483,566	-	-	-	61,729	-	104,559
Greece	0	63,719	-	23,589	-	16,957	0	46,932
Hungary	0	43,438	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	0	1,249	-	979	-	1,116	-	-
Italy	355,639	1,400	0	1,653	45,587	0	348,439	2,078
Netherlands	187,911	378,363	46	1,649	368	10,412	1,755	58,126
Norway	420	11,157	0	1	0	430	0	0
Poland	20,315	92,923	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	186	16,641	46	23,073	21,796	15,711	28	12,479
Rumania	1,303	46,597	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	6/ 11,695	6/ 81,733	19,835	6,736	17,775	128	-	-
Sweden	109	33,374	0	17	0	1,464	-	9,350
Switzerland	14	58,594	2/	20,946	0	47,847	197	47,732
United Kingdom	12,202	311,174	-	10,361	0	94,669	-	117,218
Yugoslavia	6/ 153	6/ 45,168	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 5/	671,768	3,264,764	20,081	156,557	88,031	364,184	363,999	593,820
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	6/ 2,403	6/ 94,300	-	-	-	-	-	-

Continued—

Continued---

RICE (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1936-40, annual 1947-49

Continent and country	Average 1936-40		1947		1948 1/		1949 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
ASIA								
Aden	42,015	49,996	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran 7/	64,129	1,252	27,172	55	3,215	40	-	-
Iraq	13,029	84	3,514	4,026	-	-	-	-
Palestine	2,381	41,020	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syria and Lebanon	18	37,646	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	10	156	11	24	7	565	-	1,794
British Borneo	-	6/ 128,806	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burma	6,535,742	-	1,779,012	-	2,724,947	-	2,632,452	-
Ceylon	7	1,219,294	1,214	581,062	2,042	917,056	2,025	889,640
China	26,840	870,994	1,871	673,020	10,639	8/ 850,000	-	8/ 900,000
Manchuria	6/ 10,485	6/ 178,904	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taiwan 9/	1,426,661	8,321	10/ 880,000	-	10/ 800,000	-	10/ 800,000	-
Indochina	3,232,998	11,519	148,429	-	433,413	-	227,248	-
Hong Kong	602,314	1,075,402	-	-	-	-	-	-
India 11/	622,218	3,726,688	4	1,121,857	-	1,959,021	-	1,719,659
Japan 9/	12/ 231,632	12/ 4,122,395	-	6,129	-	123,998	-	300,000
Korea 9/	2,367,393	72,735	13/	13/ 83,700	13/	13/ 170,208	13/	13/ 0
Malaya	369,852	1,746,239	3,554	523,437	-	1,018,304	52,053	1,134,803
Indonesia	73,737	499,118	3,866	260,984	772	404,495	784	541,226
Philippines	1,316	130,886	127,682	276,419	-	264,797	-	320,895
Portuguese India	62	54,736	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	2,920,437	-	871,002	-	1,730,633	-	2,680,470	-
Total 5/	18,543,276	13,993,564	3,793,649	4,753,383	6,103,453	7,052,904	6,404,932	14/
SOUTH AMERICA								
Argentina	467	52,286	5,955	15/	15/	15/	15/	15/
Bolivia	0	18,371	-	9,469	-	20,005	-	-
Brazil	83,335	0	530,885	-	475,296	-	2,185	-
British Guiana	34,296	5	43,962	-	39,267	-	58,475	-
Chile	3	24,107	5,954	-	1,252	-	18,225	-
Colombia	3	29,614	-	13,452	-	3,845	1,631	0
Ecuador	25,685	4	136,659	-	138,853	-	68,122	-
French Guiana	0	2,692	-	913	-	1,892	-	1,470
Paraguay	0	327	0	0	2/	576	5,400	-
Peru	51	44,742	0	2/	0	12,218	0	15/
Surinam	10,654	4	11,141	0	4,374	0	21,378	-
Uruguay	3,775	191	-	-	27,196	-	8,986	-
Venezuela	0	32,924	-	29,235	-	33,000	-	41,949
Total 5/	158,269	205,267	734,556	53,069	686,238	71,536	184,402	53,400

Concluded---

RICE (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1936-40, annual 1947-49

Continent and country	Average 1936-40		1947		1948 1/		1949 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
AFRICA								
Algeria	4,918	65,224	-	-	-	14,087	-	-
Sudan	252	6,719	-	6,078	-	14,467	-	9,771
Belgian Congo	3,132	611	7,237	-	2,216	-	8,249	-
Nyasaland	6/ 23	6/ 30	1,145	-	22	-	-	-
Tanganyika	980	21,805	5,858	0	14,448	0	3,472	-
Zanzibar	436	38,033	2/	1,392	-	-	-	-
Gambia	-	11,245	1	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	276,601	4,150	367,053	1	772,955	2	758,147	216
Italian Somaliland	0	12,820	-	-	-	-	-	359
French Equatorial Africa	-	6,524	-	3,907	-	5,399	-	2,941
French Morocco	-	24,719	-	441	-	8,377	-	-
French Cameroons	-	6,208	-	1,058	-	1,389	-	7
French West Africa	534	180,336	0	65,871	-	103,938	-	82,448
Gold Coast	8	24,942	-	0	-	0	-	-
Liberia	-	6/ 5,556	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	15,942	3,848	3,709	2,204	1,033	25,819	1,338	1,997
Mauritius	34	123,091	1,873	46,224	-	67,564	-	-
Mozambique	215	18,341	-	3,136	-	4,816	-	-
Nigeria	-	21,376	6,952	4	36	4	-	-
Angola	3,422	216	4,770	0	11,063	0	19,348	-
Portuguese Guinea	9,634	0	3,779	-	3,578	-	-	-
Reunion	-	67,465	-	19,246	-	60,382	-	30,915
Seychelles Islands	-	6/ 5,990	-	3,741	-	-	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	75	2,249	1	823	247	2,192	193	1,479
Tunisia	-	45,418	-	-	2/	5,308	-	-
Union of South Africa	0	139,021	-	-	-	-	-	33,620
Total 5/	318,631	928,416	402,680	216,586	810,714	386,258	798,998	14/
OCEANIA								
Australia 16/	29,025	5,268	64,344	-	62,684	-	54,634	-
Australian New Guinea	-	6/ 21,840	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Oceania	-	6/ 3,047	-	2,914	-	2,835	-	3,536
New Caledonia	238	7,183	-	4,134	-	7,566	-	-
New Zealand	17	8,542	-	4,234	-	2,510	-	-
Western Samoa	-	1,314	-	1,046	-	-	-	-
Total 5/	29,285	101,077	64,344	47,378	65,000	55,076	54,634	14/
World total 5/	19,983,407	19,278,209	6,030,000	6,095,000	8,700,000	8,690,000	9,066,000	14/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500 pounds. 3/ July-June. 4/ October-September. 5/ Including countries not shown. 6/ Less than 5-year average. 7/ March 21-March 20. 8/ Estimated on the basis of export data from exporting countries. 9/ Prewar shipments to Japan from the Japanese colonies, Korea and Taiwan, comprised the principal trade of the 3 lands. 10/ Estimated surplus. 11/ March-April to 1940-41. Includes Pakistan to August 15, 1947. 12/ November-October. 13/ South Korea. 14/ Not available. 15/ Insignificant, if any. 16/ July-June.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments and reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers. Includes milled, broken, semi-milled unconverted and rough rice in terms of milled.

Total rice imports by continents in 1949 were larger than a year earlier in Asia, Europe, and North America. The countries of the world taking the largest quantities were the normal heavy importers of Asia, India, Malaya, China, Ceylon, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The imports of 1,720 million pounds into India, the largest importer, were less than in 1948, and were 46 percent of the prewar average. The volume obtained by China from other countries, including Taiwan, is believed to have been about the same as prewar.

Imports into Japan of around 300 million pounds were nearly 3 times the 1948 trade. This volume, however, was less than 10 percent of the prewar average receipts of approximately 4,100 million pounds. Imports into Ceylon and Malaya, while not varying greatly from 1948, were 73 and 65 percent respectively, of the prewar average. On the other hand, those of the Philippines and Indonesia were slightly larger.

Rice exports of the Western Hemisphere were the smallest in several years. Increases in a majority of the countries of North America and South America failed to offset the sharp decline in the foreign trade of Brazil and Ecuador. A record total movement from the countries of North America showed gains from the preceding year in the United States, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

Brazil, normally South America's largest exporter of rice, shipped virtually no rice to foreign countries in 1949, except for a minor quantity from northern Brazil, as the result of a smaller crop and increased domestic demand. This was a marked decline from the 475 million pounds exported in the preceding year. Deliveries from Ecuador were about one-half of a year earlier, and those of Uruguay showed a decrease. Imports were larger in British Guiana, Chile, Paraguay and Surinam.

Some Increase Expected in 1950 and 1951

World rice trade during 1950 is expected to show a moderate increase from the 1949 level as the result of larger production in a majority of the exporting countries. The shipments from Asia's surplus areas may decline slightly because of unsettled conditions within some of the countries. Exports from these areas so far in 1950, however, have been maintained nearly at last year's level. The trade of the Western Hemisphere countries, on the other hand, is substantially larger than in 1949. Exports of North America may exceed the preceding year's record, and an above-average crop in Brazil resulted in a substantial increase in the exports of South America.

As based on current crop conditions of the 1950-51 world production harvested mainly in the latter part of 1950, the world's rice trade during 1951 may not vary widely from this year's exports. The extent that the exportable supplies become available for other countries depends to a large degree upon the volume permitted to be harvested in and released from the interior of the surplus areas of Asia. - - - By L. Thelma Willahan, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports from countries referred to.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FR 12-50 November 13, 1950

WORLD RICE HARVEST LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

The world rice crop of 1950-51 (August-July) is forecast at 343,000 million pounds of rough rice compared with 333,000 million in 1949-50, and 342,000 million pounds in 1948-49. Prospects indicate the current crop will be approximately 3 percent larger than last year and possibly the largest since World War II.

Asia's production, representing 93 percent of the world total, probably is the largest since the war, and Europe is harvesting a record crop. On the other hand, decreases are forecast in both North and South America, and indications are that Africa's production is about the same as in the year before.

The rice harvest of Asia is forecast at 318,000 million pounds compared with 308,000 million in 1949-50 and 318,000 million pounds in 1948-49. The gain from last year is due primarily to the prospects for relatively high per-acre yields in China as compared with the below-average production in 1949. Moderate increases are forecast in Formosa, the Phillippine Republic, Thailand, and possibly Pakistan. One of Japan's largest postwar crops is being harvested.

The production may be smaller, however, in Korea, French Indochina, the Malayan Federation, and India. The acreage of rice in the Indian Union is reported to be about 1 percent less than in the preceding year, and adverse weather in the normally heavy-producing northeast area has affected the crop to some extent.

Unsettled conditions in parts of the surplus producing region of Burma, Thailand, and French Indochina, may result in a combined 1950-51 rice harvest in that area somewhat smaller than last year. Present prospects indicate that the crop may approximate last year's or decline slightly in Burma, and rebel activities could result in a further loss of production compared with a year ago.

Thailand's acreage is reportedly larger and weather so far has been favorable for the production of another bumper crop. The acreage to be harvested in French Indochina is reported to be smaller than a year earlier, and a corresponding decrease is expected in the volume of rice to be harvested.

RICE, rough: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36 to 1944-45, annual 1948-49 to 1950-51 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average					Average					Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	2/ 1949-50	2/ 1950-51	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	2/ 1949-50	2/ 1950-51	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1948-49	2/ 1949-50	2/ 1950-51
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	100 pounds	100 pounds	100 pounds	100 pounds	100 pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA															
El Salvador	26	45	39	31	37	14	14	18	16	-	36.2	63.2	70.2	50.7	-
Mexico	95	155	210	267	292	19	15	18	15	17	180.3	239.8	370.4	407.1	502.6
Panama	50	3/ 79	134	141	-	14	13	12	12	-	72.0	3/ 104.3	163.8	174.0	-
United States	1,004	1,338	1,781	1,821	1,607	22	20	21	22	23	2,243.3	2,738.2	3,827.5	4,011.3	3,677.6
Cuba	45	69	123	120	124	10	10	11	11	11	43.4	71.4	135.0	134.0	136.0
Dominican Republic	80	3/ 98	115	108	113	11	3/ 12	11	12	12	85.0	107.7	123.7	131.8	138.3
Total	1,421	1,959	2,630	2,720	2,560	-	-	-	-	-	2,804.0	3,537.0	4,978.0	5,209.0	4,989.0
EUROPE															
Bulgaria	19	28	-	-	-	25	24	-	-	-	46.8	66.1	-	-	-
France	1	1	10	19	-	14	16	22	26	-	1.4	1.6	22.0	48.5	66.2
Greece	5	3	9	19	20	18	21	22	23	-	9.2	6.3	19.8	44.1	-
Italy	362	381	353	326	358	47	43	44	46	46	1,692.9	1,642.0	1,543.5	1,488.1	1,653.4
Portugal	47	60	68	70	112	33	28	30	24	25	152.9	170.8	202.0	170.9	285.3
Spain	110	121	137	142	147	43	43	38	40	38	477.0	522.0	518.1	573.2	560.0
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	553	615	650	660	750	-	-	-	-	-	2,393.0	2,443.0	2,475.0	2,500.0	2,781.0
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	3/ 384	-	-	-	-	3/ 19	-	-	-	-	3/ 730.1	697.5	-	-	-
ASIA															
Iran	3/ 534	580	544	544	550	3/ 16	16	14	15	18	836.0	950.0	771.5	815.7	981.0
Iraq	3/ 386	479	-	-	-	13	14	-	-	-	502.9	670.7	661.4	-	562.2
Turkey	78	66	64	64	59	28	27	21	20	20	214.8	175.7	132.3	127.9	116.8
Burma	12,671	10,650	9,921	7,849	7,900	12	12	11	11	11	15,683.3	12,375.0	10,702.0	8,986.0	9,000.0
China	4/ 48,853	45,000	45,617	45,631	47,000	4/ 23	22	23	21	23	4/ 110,372.0	99,000.0	106,200.0	98,100.0	4/ 110,000.0
Formosa	1,616	1,539	1,782	1,819	-	24	21	19	20	-	3,856.7	3,262.7	3,375.0	3,700.0	4,000.0
Manchuria	782	975	-	-	-	18	16	-	-	-	1,430.2	1,545.1	1,000.0	800.0	-
French Indochina	14,306	13,000	13,500	12,000	11,250	10	10	10	10	10	14,396.0	12,825.0	12,825.0	12,150.0	11,130.0
India - reporting	5/	5/	70,275	71,660	71,000	-	-	10	10	-	5/	5/	73,061.2	73,693.4	-
- nonreporting	5/	5/	1,313	1,313	1,300	-	-	16	16	-	5/	5/	2,041.3	2,041.3	-
India total	5/	5/	(71,588)	(72,973)	(72,300)	-	-	10	10	-	5/	5/	(75,102.5)	(75,734.7)	-

ASIA (Continued)--															
Japan	7,862	7,653	7,850	7,850	-	34	33	34	35	-	26,793.1	25,003.9	26,438.0	27,837.9	25,700.0
Korea	3,838	3,601 6/	2,748 6/	2,580	-	23	23 6/	28 6/	26	-	8,809.3	8,172.0 6/	7,764.9 6/	6,834.5	-
Malayan Federation	746	790	907	920	-	16	14	12	15	-	1,219.6	1,125.0	1,092.2	1,422.2	1,300.0
Java and Madura	9,794	9,330	9,110	9,200	-	14	15	15	14	-	14,091.5	13,700.9	13,260.0	13,300.0	-
Pakistan	7/ 18,706	20,605	21,545	21,772	22,500 7/	13	12	13	13	13 7/	24,339.8	25,274.3	28,319.8	27,368.1	28,500.0
Philippine Republic	4,852	5,265	5,347	5,486	5,754	10	9	10	10	10	4,719.5	4,950.0	5,492.3	5,711.4	5,870.0
Thailand	7,088	6,750	7,500	7,900	8,000	14	13	15	15	15	9,588.5	9,000.0	11,250.0	11,850.0	11,900.0
Total	-	-	208,260	206,650	208,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317,660.0	308,378.0	318,220.0
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	52	91	124	136	-	27	28	21	18	-	140.0	254.3	265.0	250.0	-
Brazil	2,323	3,042	4,152	4,300	4,000	13	14	13	14	-	2,989.1	4,285.7	5,400.0	6,200.0	-
British Guiana	70	83	95	96	-	23	22	22	23	-	160.2	182.5	210.1	221.1	-
Chile	13	68	60	66	69	45	34	31	30	-	58.5	232.3	183.9	201.0	-
Paraguay	5	15	16	22	27	18	18	19	18	18	8.8	26.4	30.9	39.7	48.5
Peru	107	137	115	71	-	19	22	29	29	-	206.0	302.2	335.3	204.0	-
Surinam	37	33	45	40	-	21	25	29	28	-	76.6	84.0	128.7	110.2	-
Uruguay	13	13	36	34	-	30	29	26	26	-	38.9	37.2	94.3	88.2	-
Total	2,914	4,002	5,350	5,380	5,200	-	-	-	-	-	4,003.0	5,964.0	7,581.0	8,131.0	7,430.0
AFRICA															
Sierra Leone	346	-	780	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	412.3	-	-	-	-
Egypt	463	600	816	830	830	32	27	35	31	31	1,496.8	1,622.2	2,883.4	2,575.0	2,600.0
French West Africa	3/ 1,562	1,860	-	-	- 3/	6	6	-	-	-	942.1	1,111.5	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,195	1,227	1,421	1,388	-	13	13	11	12	-	1,522.0	1,568.3	1,594.5	1,654.3	-
Total	4,330	5,430	7,310	7,380	7,460	-	-	-	-	-	4,981.0	5,748.0	8,261.0	8,138.0	8,136.0
OCEANIA															
Australia	23	30	31	36	39	41	37	37	45	42	95.3	110.8	115.0	161.3	163.0
Fiji	10	22	-	-	-	19	21	-	-	-	19.4	45.3	-	-	-
Total	40	70	90	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	122.0	176.0	204.0	253.0	254.0
World total	-	-	224,690	223,320	224,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	341,900.0	333,400.0	342,600.0

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 5-year average. 4/ Average 1931-37. 5/ Because of changes in the basis of reporting India's rice acreage and production, statistics beginning with 1948-49 are not comparable with earlier years. 6/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production averaged about 6,750 million pounds annually. 7/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40.

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